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By Joshua Bates, Esq.
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A
TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY
OF THE
GREAT ROAD, &c.



View of the Queen's Palace, from the Green Park.

A
TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY

OF THE
GREAT ROAD

FROM
LONDON TO BATH AND BRISTOL

WITH
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNTS

OF THE COUNTRY THROUGH WHICH IT PASSES,
AND OF THE VARIOUS REMAINS OF ANTIQUITY

AND
PERSPECTIVE VIEWS

OF THE MOST INTERESTING AND REMARKABLE SITES

ON THE GREAT ROAD

FROM LONDON TO BATH AND BRISTOL,
AND OF THE VARIOUS REMAINS OF ANTIQUITY

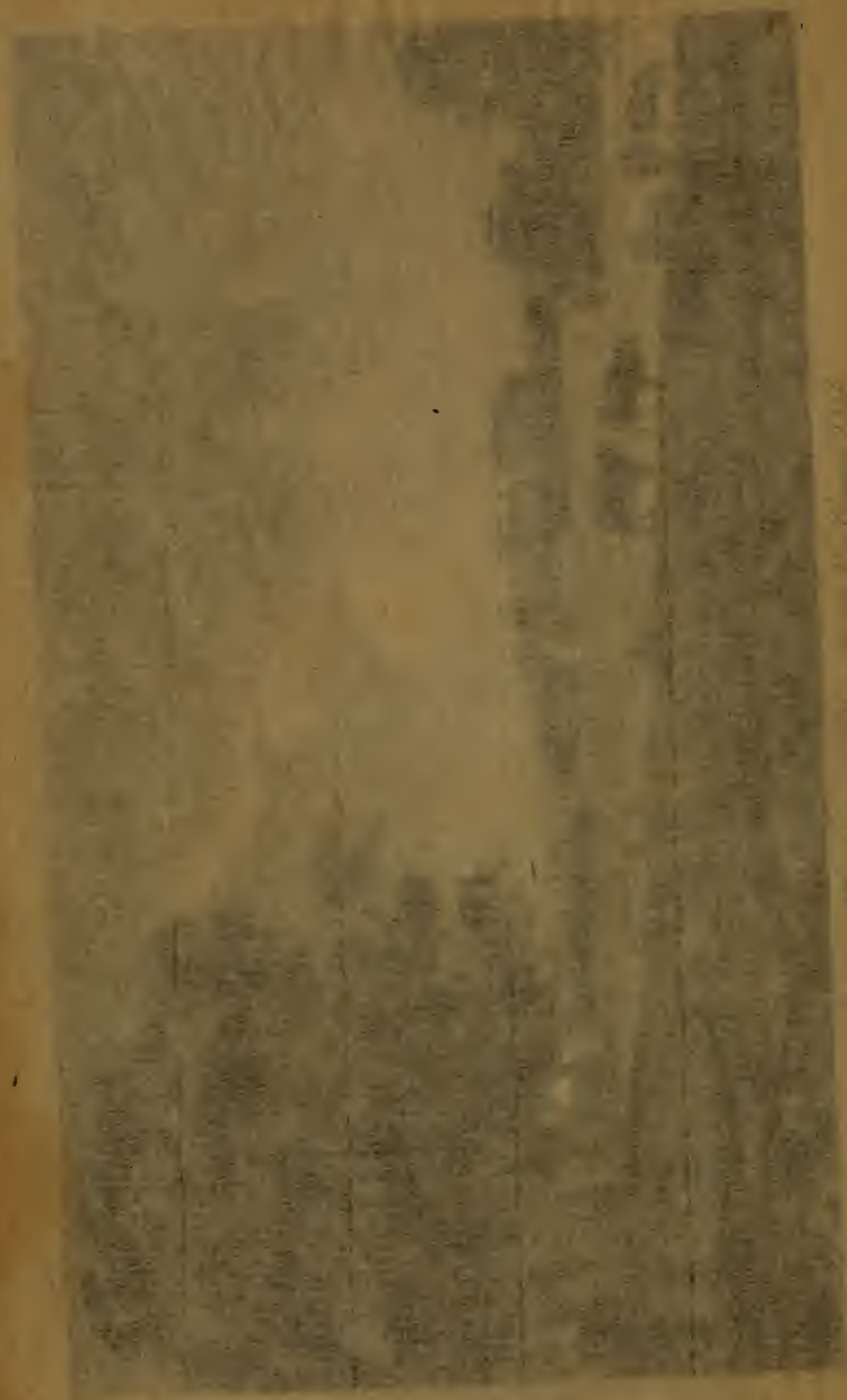
BY
J. ARCHIBALD ROBERTSON

IN TWO VOLUMES

VOLUME I

LONDON

PRINTED BY THE LONDON, CHANCERY, AND
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A
TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY

OF THE
GREAT ROAD

FROM
LONDON TO BATH AND BRISTOL.

WITH
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNTS
OF THE COUNTRY, TOWNS, VILLAGES, AND GENTLE-
MEN'S SEATS ON AND ADJACENT TO IT;

ILLUSTRATED BY
PERSPECTIVE VIEWS
OF THE
MOST SELECT AND PICTURESQUE SCENERY.

To which is added
A CORRECT MAP OF THE COUNTRY
Three Miles on each side of the Road; planned from a Scale of
One Inch to a Mile.

BY ARCHIBALD ROBERTSON.

IN TWO PARTS.

PART I.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR, CHARLES-STREET,
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Joshua Bates Esq

(25856)

TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
GEORGE PRINCE OF WALES,
&c. &c.

SIR,

YOUR Royal Highness having graciously condescended to permit me to inscribe the following work to you, I cannot present it to the public, without testifying how deeply sensible I am of being thus privileged to throw it under your royal protection.

A

DEDICATION.

I am perfectly aware, that no merit of the performance can possibly give it pretensions to so exalted a patronage; yet I flatter myself to escape the imputation of vanity, if I am permitted to ask, to whom could this publication be with more propriety addressed, than to him who is born to be the *hereditary defender* and *governor* of that country; the Topography, and Picturesque Beauties of which, it is the principal design of the following pages to illustrate?

That your Royal Highness may long live to be the ornament of so-

DEDICATION.

ciety, the delight and boast of our
nation, and of your august Parents,
is the earnest prayer of,

SIR,

your Royal Highness's

most grateful,

most dutiful,

and most devoted servant,

ARCH^D. ROBERTSON.

*Charles-street, St. James's-square,
Jan. 1, 1792.*

INTRODUCTION.

THOUGH many ingenious and useful publications, as Itineraries to this country, have answered their intended purposes ; yet serving only as guides to the post courier on the high roads, it must be allowed more is wanting, and more is desired by the curious and inquisitive traveller.

The difficulty of obtaining any satisfactory information in travelling is so generally felt and acknowledged, as to require no proof ; to obviate that difficulty is the chief aim of the present publication.

The author makes no pretensions to literary merit ; it is out of his sphere. His intentions are to give a work in its composition simple ; in its information useful ; and in some degree entertaining.

In the descriptive parts, he wishes to convey similar ideas to those by which he was impressed at the moment he made his observations. — To give decided judgment, lavishly to praise, or severely to censure, he equally avoids ; and leaves it to the judicious traveller to form opinions for himself ; towards which he hopes some assistance will be found, in the perusal of these pages.

The prints which serve to illustrate this work, are not ideal but *Real Views*, accurately taken on the spot by the author for the purpose ; and the plates were all engraved by himself : he therefore presumes he may with some degree of confidence, present them to the public as just representations.

In describing the various subjects in a tour of this extent, similar ideas must recur, and similar expressions unavoidably be made use of ; he hopes the indulgent reader will impute such repetitions to their real cause ;

which he doubts not will be rendered less exceptionable by the consideration, that each separate sketch is a whole, and unconnected with any other.

This being a first essay, and the only work of the kind carried into execution ; it must be supposed liable to omissions and some incorrectness : the Author can only say, if any gentleman will kindly condescend to point out such defects, and an Appendix should be found necessary, he will not fail to pay every possible attention to his communications.

CONTENTS

TO PART I.

SECTION I.

COUNTRY of Middlesex, PAGE 1.—*City of London*, 2.—*London Bridge*, 3.—*Blackfriars Bridge*, *ib.*—*Westminster Bridge*, 4.—*Saint James's Park*, 5.—*The Queen's Palace*, 6.—*St. James's Palace*, *ib.*—*The Green Park*, 7.—*Hyde Park*, 8.—*Kensington*, 10.—*Kensington Palace*, *ib.*—*Camden House*, 11.—*Holland House*, *ib.*—*Chelsea*, 12.—*Chelsea College*, *ib.*—*Ranelagh*, 13.—*Hammersmith*, *ib.*—*Chiswick*, *ib.*—*Chiswick House*, *ib.*—*Turnham Green*, 14.—*Seat of Lord Heathfield*, *ib.*—*Gunnersbury House*, 15.

SECT. II.

Kew Bridge, 17.—*County of Surrey*, 18.—
Kew, 19.—*Royal Gardens of Kew*, 20.—
Richmond, 23.—*Richmond Palace*, 25.
— *Richmond Gardens*, 26.— *Richmond*
Park, 29.—*The Duke of Clarence's Villa*
at Petersham, 30.— *Petersham*, 31.—
Earl of Dysart's Seat, ib. — *Richmond*
Bridge, 32.—*Seat of Owen Cambridge*,
Esq. ib.— *Marble Hill*, ib.— *House of*
Lady Diana Beauclerk, 33.—*House of the*
late Duke of Montague, ib.—*Twickenham*,
ib.—*House of Sir George Pocock*, ib.—
House of the celebrated Mr. Pope, ib.—
Strawberry Hill, 34.—*Seat of the Duke*
of Queensberry, 35.—*House of Mr. Keane*,
36.—*Twickenham Park*, ib.

SECT. III.

Brentford, 37.—*Sion House*, 38.—*Isleworth*,
41.—*Sion Hill*, ib.—*Seat of John Robin-*

son, Esq. 42.—*Osterley Park*, *ib.*—*Spring Grove*, 45.—*Whitton Place*, 46.—*Hounslow*, 48.—*Roman Camp near King's Arbor*, *ib.*

SECT. IV.

Retrospect of the Country from London to Hounslow, 49.—*Lambeth*, 50.—*Lambeth Palace*, *ib.*—*Vauxhall*, 51.—*Battersea*, 52.—*Fulham and Putney*, 53.—*Approach to Richmond by the River described*, *ib.*—*Utility and Consequence of the Thames to the Metropolis*, 54.—*Hounslow Heath*, 55.—*River Crane*, *ib.*—*Cranford Park*, 56.—*Dawley*, *ib.*—*Longford*, *ib.*—*Roman Way near Arlington*, 57.—*Colnbrook*, *ib.*—*County of Buckingham*, 58.—*Percy Lodge*, 59.—*Langley Park*, 60.—*Ditton Park*, 62.—*Country from Colnbrook to Slough*, *ib.*—*Slough*, 63.—*House of Dr. Herschell*, 63.

SECT. V.

Windsor Castle, 65.—*Improvements by their present Majesties in Windsor Castle*, 67.—*Town of Windsor*, 72.—*Old Windsor*, 74.—*The little Park*, 74.—*Windsor great Park*, 75.—*Royal Forests*, 76.—*Cranbourne Lodge*, 76.—*St. Leonard's Hill*, ib.—*Cæsar's Camp, and other Traces of Antiquity in Windsor Forest*, 77.—*Eton College*, 78.—*Village of Eton*, 80.

SECT. VI.

Earl of Chesterfield's Villa, 81.—*Village of Stoke*, ib.—*Stoke Park*, 82.—*Farnham Royal*, ib.—*Village of Burnham*, 83.—*Lady Ravensworth's House*, ib.—*Appearance of the Country on approaching Maidenhead Bridge*, ib.—*Village of Taploe*, 84.

—*Taploe House*, 84.—*Cliefden House*, *ib.*
 —*Hedsor Lodge*, 87.—*House of Sir*
George Young, 88.

SECT. VII.

Description of Berkshire, 89.—*Maidenhead*
Bridge, 91.—*Town of Maidenhead*, 92.—
Seat of P. Powney, Esq. 93.—*Description*
of the Country from Maidenhead to the
Race Ground, 94.—*Seat of Charles Am-*
bler, Esq. *ib.*—*Hall Place, the Seat of Sir*
William Este, Bart. *ib.*—*Description of*
the Country for some miles beyond Maiden-
head Race Ground, 95.—*Village of Shot-*
tersbrook, *ib.*—*Account of Mr. Henry*
Dodwell, *ib.*—*Lawrence Waltham*, 96.
 —*Seat of Arthur Vansittart*, *ib.*—
House of Mrs. Philips, *ib.*—*House of Mr.*
Ximenes, 97.—*Seat of J. Lee Parrot,*
Esq. *ib.*—*Village of Hare Hatch*, *ib.*—
Village of Ruscombe, *ib.*—*House of Lord*
Chief Baron Eyre, 98.—*Village of War-*
grave, *ib.*—*Residence and Theatre of the*

Earl of Barrymore, ib.—House of Mr. Hill, 99.

SECT. VIII.

Park Place, 101.—Description of a Druid Temple, 107.—Observations respecting the Druids, their Temples, and Worship, with some historical Facts relating to that People and the Island of Jersey, 109.—County of Oxford, 110.—Henley upon Thames, 111.—Opinion of Antiquarians respecting Henley, 112.—Henley Bridge, 113.—Description of the Country round Henley, ib.—Twyford, 114.—Caversham Park, 116. Village of Sunning, 118.—White Knights, ib.—Early Court, 119.—New Road from Windsor to Reading, ib.

SECT. IX.

Town of Reading, 121.—Abbey at Reading, 123.—Stratum of Oysters found on Catsgrove Hill near Reading, 125.—House

of Edward Bower, Esq. 126.—*House of Mr. Belgrave*, 126.—*Seat of J. Belgrave, Esq.* 127.—*Village of Theal*, *ib.*—*Englefield House*, 128.—*Village of Bradfield*, 129.—*Padworth*, 130.—*Aldermanston*, 131.—*Silchester*, *ib.*—*Account of Roman Ways*, 132.—*Village of Woolhampton*, 133.—*Seat of Mrs. Crew*, *ib.*—*Dunsted Park*, 134.—*Village of Thatcham*, 135.—*Shaw, the Seat of Sir Joseph Andrews*, 136.

SECT. X.

Town of Newbury, 137.—*First Battle of Newbury*, 138.—*Second Battle of Newbury*, 142.—*High Clere Park*, 145.—*Speen*, 147.—*Opinion of Antiquarians respecting Roman Ways*, *ib.*—*Donnington Grove*, 148.—*Lamborne River*, 149.—*Donnington Castle*, 150.—*Siege of Donnington Castle*, 151.—*Donnington Castle formerly the residence of Chaucer*, *ib.*—*Benham House*, 152.

INDEX TO THE PLATES.

Abbey Gate at Reading,	—	<i>facing page</i>	123
Benham House,	—	—	152
Bridge at Newbury,	—	—	138
Chalk Cavern, at Park Place,	—	—	104
Cliefden House,	—	—	84
Donnington Grove, looking West,	—	—	148
Donnington Grove, looking North,	—	—	149
Druid Temple, at Park Place,	—	—	108
Great Arch, at Park Place,	—	—	102
Green Park, Lodge in,	—	—	8
Hedsor Lodge,	—	—	86
Hedsor Lodge, taken from beyond the River,	—	—	88
Henley Bridge,	—	—	113
High Clere Park,	—	—	145
Kew Bridge,	—	—	17
Longford, View at,	—	—	56
Maidenhead Bridge, approach to,	—	—	90
Maidenhead Bridge, View of,	—	—	92
Maidenhead Bridge, View from, looking Eastward,	—	—	94
Newbury, View of,	—	—	137
Park Place, general View of,	—	—	100
Queen's Palace,	—	—	6
Reading, View of,	—	—	121
Richmond Hill, View from,	—	—	24
Richmond Bridge,	—	—	32
Richmond Hill, looking Southward,	—	—	54
Sion Lodge,	—	—	38
Tomb at Park Place,	—	—	105
White Knights,	—	—	118
Windsor Castle, from the left of Slough,	—	—	62
Windsor, from St. Leonard's Hill,	—	—	76
Windsor Castle, from the River,	—	—	66
Young, Sir George, View of his House,	—	—	88

A

TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY,

&c.

SECT. I.

THE county of Middlesex extends, nearly twenty-four miles in length; eighteen in breadth; and ninety-five in circumference. It is bounded, on the north by Hertfordshire; on the south by the river Thames, which divides it from Surrey; on the west by the river Colne, which separates it from Buckinghamshire; and on the east by the river Lee, which parts it from Essex.

The two very opulent cities of London and Westminster, although distinct in their

B

government and jurisdiction, are actually united, and go under the appellation of the Metropolis:—they stand in the south-east quarter of this county, which is the most populous and wealthy of any in Great Britain. Middlesex contains seventy-three parishes, and five market-towns; exclusive of the metropolis, collectively denominated London. A gravelly soil prevails over great part of this county; which contributes to the salubrity of the air, and healthiness of its inhabitants.

L O N D O N.

London, the metropolis of Great Britain, justly esteemed the first city in Europe, for wealth, commerce, and extent; is nobly situated upon a declivity on the banks of the river Thames: the influx and reflux of which regularly washing the lower parts of it.—An elevated and gravelly situation; the manner of paving, lighting, and cleaning the streets; with the very surprising me-

thod by which the whole city and its suburbs are amply supplied with water,—leave it unrivalled by any other in the universe. Here, health, comfort, convenience, and the luxuries of life, are to be found in a very superior degree.

Over the Thames, are three magnificent stone bridges, viz. London, Blackfriars, and Westminster.

The former of these, is of great antiquity ; and is said to have been built, in its original form, about the year 1209: having had a row of houses on each side, forming a narrow street ; which being found inconvenient and dangerous, was removed ; since which period the bridge has undergone many alterations and repairs, and has been widened and modernized. It extends nine hundred and fifteen feet in length, and forms a spacious road of communication between the city of London and borough of Southwark.

Blackfriars bridge, was begun in 1760, and completed in 1769. It consists of nine

elliptical arches, and extends near a thousand feet in length. Over each pier is a recess, supported by two Ionic columns, and two pilasters, which stand on a semicircular projection of the pier. Its width is forty-four feet, and the height of the balustrade, on the inside, is four feet two inches. This elegant and costly structure was built, at the expence of the city of London, from a design, and under the direction of Robert Milne, Esq.—and, to the astonishment and dismay of our enemies, was undertaken in the midst of an expensive war.

Westminster bridge, is allowed to be one of the first in Europe for elegant simplicity and grandeur ; extending twelve hundred feet in length, and about forty-six in breadth : it has fifteen semicircular arches, with a semi-octagon recess over each pier ; twelve of which are covered with half domes. It was completed in 1747, about twelve years after its foundation was laid ;—was built, at the public expence, and is computed to have cost £.390,000 ; and forms

the communication between the city of Westminster and the Surrey shore.

These three magnificent bridges, besides being the greatest ornament to the noble river on which they stand ; form approaches to the cities of London and Westminster, in a style of elegance and grandeur not to be met with elsewhere: and being well paved and lighted must, at first view, whether by day or night, impress the minds of foreigners and natives with a just idea of the consequence and splendour of the wealthy metropolis to which they belong.

The parks, at the west end of the town, where the public have at all times liberty to resort, for air and recreation, are worthy of observation.

Saint James's Park, in which the very ancient and royal palace of that name stands, is of considerable extent, and is nearly divided by a canal in the center. On the south and north sides, are avenues of stately trees, which afford an agreeable shade in the summer, and shelter in the winter sea-

son. The walks are spacious, well gravelled, and kept in excellent order ; and are much resorted to, by all ranks and degrees of people, particularly in the spring and summer months.

At the west end of Saint James's Park, stands the Queen's Palace ; which, though it might be esteemed an elegant house for a subject, is by no means possessed of that magnificence which ought to adorn the mansions of royalty. This building went formerly by the name of Buckingham House ; having been the property of and built by Sheffield Duke of Buckingham. It is now the town residence of their Majesties and royal family. The apartments of this palace are elegantly furnished : It contains a valuable collection of pictures by the first masters ; and the library is magnificent

It is with regret, Saint James's Palace must be passed over in silence : to describe it, would only bring to our remembrance, how much it is to be lamented, that the sovereign of Great Britain, has not a palace

in his metropolis, equal in magnificence to those of other monarchs ; and more becoming the dignity of the wealthy and powerful realms, over which he so happily reigns.

The Green Park, is situated on the north side of Saint James's Park ; running parallel to the street which leads to the great western road : and though of less extent than the latter, has greatly the advantage of situation. From the high ground on the north side, where there is a reservoir of water surrounded by a gravel walk, looking southward, is a most delightful view terminated by the Surrey hills. From hence proceeding west, we descend a small valley through a delightful grove, on the right of which stands the deputy-ranger's house (now inhabited by Lord William Gordon), which being of a picturesque form, and the grounds around it, though in miniature, being laid out in great taste by the possessor, present a most pleasing and beautiful scene. The herds of

cattle feeding around ; the great number of fashionable company frequently to be seen here ; together with the pleasantness of the prospects—conspire to render this spot as uncommon as it is charming.

Hyde Park, is situated at the western extremity of London ; extending south and north from the great western road to Oxford road, and west from the obelisk at Hyde Park Corner (whence the measurement of the great western road is taken) to Kensington ; being near two miles. The ground here is much varied and beautiful, affording many delightful scenes. This park is divided by a noble piece of water, called the Serpentine River ;—supplied by a constant running clear stream, which rises near Bays-water, and falls into the Thames at Westminster. Over this water is a bridge and road where it enters Kensington gardens ; beyond the bridge it continues its serpentine course through part of the gardens, and imperceptibly vanishes among its pleasant groves. Hyde Park abounds with



View of the Lodge in the Green Park.

many venerable and stately elms, and a great variety of other trees ; which are finely grouped, and afford much picturesque beauty. This being the only park open to all who may choose to take the air in carriages or on horseback, is much resorted to ; and, by the example of an amiable young prince, has of late become the fashionable ride and promenade ; which at particular times exhibits an assemblage of elegance, beauty, and fashion, together with such an incredible number of sumptuous and costly equipages, as are not to be paralleled in any other part of the globe : and, while it proves to what degree of luxury this country is arrived, it holds out to our view the immense wealth of the inhabitants of the magnificent city to which this is an appendage.

KENSINGTON.

Kensington is a considerable village, near two miles from Hyde Park Corner; has many good houses, a handsome square, and a good church, which is a modern building.

As we enter Kensington, a royal palace stands on the right, towards the western part of the gardens. This spot was formerly the seat of Albert de Vere, ancestor of the Veres, Earls of Oxford, to whom it was given by William the Conqueror. It was likewise the seat of the Lord Finch, high chancellor of England, afterwards Earl of Nottingham; was purchased by King William III. who built a royal palace here, and made extensive gardens in the style of those times. Kensington Palace is by no means large; nor are the apartments magnificent. The gardens have been, at successive periods, improved: lately they have been much altered and modernized; and

they are open for the recreation and amusement of the public, under some restrictions. This palace has been the temporary residence of successive kings and queens of England, from the time of William III. to his late Majesty George II. who died here. In early times, Kensington gave the title of Baron to the Earl of Warwick and Holland.

A little beyond Kensington, on the right, is Camden House, once a noble retreat, but now converted into a boarding school for young ladies.

Adjoining to this, at the summit of a spacious lawn, which gently rises from the road, stands Holland House ; a venerable and stately Gothic structure : it is said to have been built by Henry Rich, Earl of Holland, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth ; was the seat of the late Lord Holland ; and is now the property of the present Lord of that name, a minor. It is pleasantly situated ; commanding views over the Surrey hills to the south ; and is well screened by wood from the north.

C H E L S E A.

Chelsea is a large and populous village ; situated on the banks of the Thames, about a mile west from Saint James's Park. Here stands a magnificent College (which is seen from the western road) founded by Charles II. and completed by King James II. and William III. for sick and wounded soldiers, or those who have served in the army twenty years. The number of ordinary pensioners is above 400, besides officers of the College, and near 9000 out-pensioners. The army pays poundage ; and every officer and soldier gives one day's pay in the year to this fund. The College was built by Sir Christopher Wren ; and it affords every convenience for so laudable and benevolent an institution. A bronze statue of King Charles II. stands opposite the center of the building, next the river.

Near this formerly stood an elegant seat, the property and residence of the late Earl

of Ranelagh ; the greatest part of the gardens belonging to which have been parcelled out, and sold in lots ; and is now occupied by buildings. The house has been converted into a place of elegant summer amusement ; where a band of vocal and instrumental performers attend in the evening for the entertainment of the company. The Rotunda, which stands in the gardens, is a superb room, 150 feet in diameter ; is elegantly lighted, and is much resorted to by the most fashionable company in the kingdom.

A little more than a mile from Kensington, we pass through Hammersmith ; a long and scattered village ; on the left of which at a small distance from the road, is the seat of the late Lord Melcomb.

A little further, by the river, stands the village of Chiswick ; near to which is a small but handsome house built by the late Lord Burlington ; quite in the style, and much resembling an Italian villa. The house is greatly admired, and esteemed a

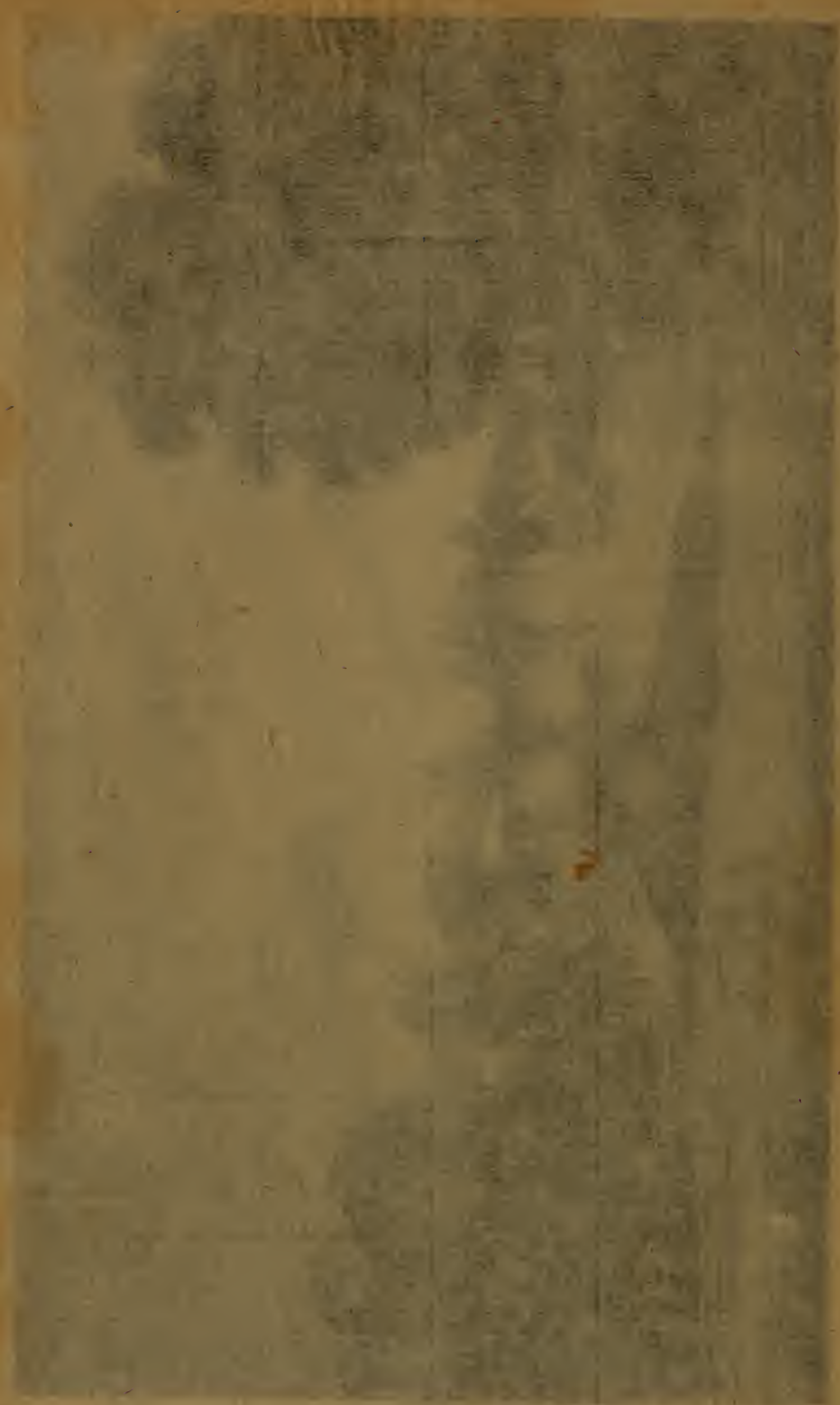
perfect piece of architecture. Rows of noble cedars grace the approach to it ; and the gardens are laid out with taste ; having been altered and improved by the late ingenious Mr. Kent. This elegant little villa belongs to his Grace the Duke of Devonshire ; and contains a collection of valuable pictures.

Near the road, on the left, at Turnham-Green, is a small seat which was the residence of the late Lieutenant-General Lord Heathfield : whose well known military services gained him the esteem of his king and country ; and particularly his gallant defence of the important fortress of Gibraltar, against the combined forces of France and Spain in the late war. This little villa is now the property of the present Lord Heathfield ; and in the time of the late noble possessor was altered and improved (as far as any thing on so small a scale would admit) with taste and judgment, under the direction of Mr. William Aiton, jun.

A little beyond Turnham-Green on an eminence in sight from the road, on the right, stands Gunnersbury House, which was built by Mr. Webb, son-in-law to the justly celebrated architect Inigo Jones. It is a stately building, and has an elegant portico to the back front; is well sheltered with wood, and its gardens are laid out in a good style. This seat was the property and residence of her late Royal Highness the Princess Amelia, aunt to his present Majesty.



New Bridge from the Ferry at Brentford.



SECT II.

A LITTLE beyond the six-mile stone, the road to Kew and Richmond branches off to the left. Here lately stood a wooden bridge over the Thames, which was taken down, and is rebuilt of stone, from a design by Mr. Paine. This new structure, though of considerable dimensions, by no means claims our admiration for its proportions, so much as several others on the same river; its width being much too contracted for its length and height; which disproportion never fails to lessen the dignity of the object, on our approach to it.

There is a handsome balustrade on each side; but no pavement for foot passengers, nor recesses for shelter in case of danger: It is, however, an elegant struc-

ture, a great ornament to the river, and becomes a picturesque object, when viewed from many parts of the neighbourhood.—Being private property, a toll is levied from passengers of every description, which produces a considerable revenue.

COUNTY OF SURREY.

Kew bridge leads to the county of Surrey ; which is bounded by the Thames on the north, by Sussex on the south, on the east by Kent, and on the west by Berkshire and Hampshire : It is about thirty-four miles in length, twenty in breadth, and one hundred and twelve in circumference ; contains one hundred and forty parishes, thirteen market-towns, four hundred and fifty villages ; and lies in the province of Canterbury, and diocess of Winchester.—Its chief produce is corn, box and walnut-tree ; and its rivers are the Thames, the Mole, the Wey, and the Wandle, abounding with a variety of excellent fish.

The Mole rises near Oakley, and running eastward for several miles along the skirts of Sussex, takes a north-west direction; and at the bottom of Box-hill, near Darking, disappears at a place called the Swallow, and forces a passage under ground, for more than two miles, to Leatherhead;—where it again springs up, and continues its course northward, and falls into the Thames nearly opposite to Hampton Court.

In the northern part of this county, near the Thames, and towards the borders of Kent, the soil is rich and productive, particularly in corn and hay; many other parts of it are sandy, and consist of barren heaths. The air is reckoned mild and healthy, in the most cultivated parts, but more bleak and harsh in its waste and barren tracts.

Kew is situated on the Thames, opposite to Brentford; is an unconnected village, surrounding a level spot called Kew Green, and is composed of many handsome houses and small villas.—At its western extremity, on the left, is a royal palace, which shall

hereafter be particularly mentioned ; and nearly opposite to this, on the right, close to the river, stands an ancient edifice belonging to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

On the Green, is a small but neat church, which was a chapel of ease to Kingston upon Thames, but now is a distinct vicarage ; it was built upon ground given by Queen Ann, at the expence of the nobility and gentry of the neighbourhood of Kew.

ROYAL GARDENS OF KEW.

The pleasure gardens of Kew were begun by his Royal Highness the late Prince of Wales, father to his present Majesty ; were much improved by the late Princess Dowager of Wales ; and were completed under the direction of his present Majesty. These gardens contain nearly one hundred and twenty acres ; and though originally a dead flat, being forced by art, at a very considerable expence, now exhibit a great

variety of beautiful scenery. The palace stands on the north side of the gardens ; it is a low neat building, and though not magnificent, serves as a temporary retirement for their Majesties, and the royal family.

Beyond a spacious lawn, on the south front, in view from this mansion, is a handsome piece of water ; the banks of which are ornamented by shrubberies and other woody scenery. These gardens are between two and three miles in circumference ; are adorned by a variety of temples and other buildings, chiefly in the Chinese and Turkish style of architecture, after the designs of Sir William Chambers, and some others :—the most conspicuous of these is the Pagoda, which stands on a delightful spot near the south side of the gardens, and is intended to imitate a Chinese Taa.—This edifice is built on a regular octagon base, forty-nine feet in diameter : the superstructure is of the same form, ten stories high, regularly diminishing in height and breadth, each

having a projecting roof, round which is a gallery inclosed by a rail ; the whole making one hundred and sixty-three feet in height : the stairs which lead to the different stories are in the center of the building.

The botanic gardens at Kew, were first formed by her Royal Highness the late Princess Dowager of Wales, in 1760 ; chiefly under the direction of the Earl of Bute : and, in a short space of time, a very considerable progress was made in collecting and propagating plants. After the death of her Royal Highness, descending to their present Majesties, they have, under their auspices, been brought to a degree of perfection far exceeding any other of the kind in the universe.

Kew gardens, are supposed to contain above five thousand different species of plants (among which are many of the most rare from every part of the known world); a number which nothing but the most unremitting assiduity, combined with the most unbounded liberality, could produce in so short a

period. They are kept in the most perfect order ; have been conducted, from their first formation, under the sole management of Mr. William Aiton, botanic gardener to his Majesty ; to whom, as a professional man, they do infinite credit ; as may be seen by a catalogue of the plants cultivated in Kew gardens, in three volumes large octavo, entitled *Hortus Kewensis*, lately published by him.

RICHMOND.

About two miles from Kew, and eight from the metropolis, is the village of Richmond : it is built on the declivity of a hill of considerable height ; extends southward to the gates of Richmond park, and is more than a mile in length.—The great number of excellent houses, with a variety of elegant villas, of which it is composed ; the various and extensive views it commands, over a rich and highly cultivated surrounding country, adorned in a very superior degree

by nature and art, give it a claim to superiority over most others in this country.

From hence we view the beautiful Thames, which washes the base of the hill on which this village stands, gliding in meanders through verdant meadows in the valley beneath. Sometimes it is only to be seen, in imperfect glances, through the rich scenery of the grounds which overhang its banks; at others more distinctly, assuming various appearances, as the situation from whence it is viewed is changed. — And though there can be nothing in nature more beautiful or elegant than the lines formed by the course of a noble river; yet when partially screened from the eye by a variety of intervening objects, they appear to greater advantage, and new graces are added to those which seemed to want no artificial assistance. The opposite shore of the river is richly adorned with beautiful lawns, delightful villages, and elegant seats; and whether we view this charming spot from the banks of the river, or, remaining



View from Richmond Hill looking down the River.

on it, survey the surrounding country, the eye is equally enchanted, though with landscapes of very different composition.

At Richmond, in early times, there stood a royal palace, which was long the favourite seat of the British monarchs.—Here died Edward III. and Ann, the queen of Richard II. after whose death it was by him deserted. It was afterwards repaired by Henry V. but during the destructive wars between the houses of York and Lancaster, it was much neglected, and was afterwards consumed by fire, in the year 1497. It was rebuilt by Henry VII. who changed the name of the village from Shene to Richmond, having borne the title of Duke of Richmond before his accession to the crown. This monarch, and his grand-daughter Queen Elizabeth, also died here. In Richmond part of the walls, and some other vestiges of this ancient palace, are still to be seen.

King William III. having granted some lands to the Duke of Ormond, as a recompense for his military services, a palace was

by him built, near the royal gardens ; which reverted to the crown, after that nobleman's attainder, in the beginning of the reign of King George II.--It then became the summer residence of that monarch and Queen Caroline, by whom it was greatly improved. Here his present Majesty also lived ; and after the death of his mother, the late Princess Dowager of Wales, he removed to Kew Palace, and ordered that of Richmond to be demolished, with the intention of erecting a new one on the same site ; the foundation was laid, but the idea of completing it seems, for the present, to be abandoned.

RICHMOND GARDENS.

The Royal gardens of Richmond are separated from Kew gardens by a wall ; formerly they were parted by a road, which has been removed. The public road also, by the river side, was taken away ; in lieu of which a spacious one, in a more direct line from Kew bridge to Richmond,

has been substituted ; which, though perhaps not so pleasant as the former, is certainly considerably shorter, and more convenient.

These gardens are about four miles in circumference, extending from Kew, southward, along the Thames, towards the village of Richmond ; and, since their first formation, have undergone many changes.—By his present Majesty they have been totally altered, and much improved (though not completed) under the direction of the late ingenious Mr. Launcelot Brown ; one of the first who ventured to cast away the fetters which had been so long rivetted on the genius of the artist, by the vitiated taste and unnatural formalities of ancient gardening, and boldly and judiciously made choice of nature for his model : and no where is this superiority of better judgment more conspicuously to be seen, than by the late alterations made in the gardens of Richmond.

Instead of regular avenues, dressed hedges, smooth parterres, and straight embank-

ments, we now see irregular groups of trees, adorning beautiful swelling lawns, interspersed with shrubberies, broken clumps, and more solemn woods; through the recesses of which are walks that lead to various parts of these delicious gardens, laid out with elegance and taste, as if Nature herself had been the directress.—The banks, along the margin of the Thames, are judiciously varied, forming a noble terrace, which extends the whole length of the gardens.

In the south-east quarter of these enchanting grounds, a road leads to a lonely and sequestered spot, where stands a cottage, in which nothing but elegant simplicity is to be found.—Here is a collection of foreign and domestic animals of great curiosity, and also a number of exotic and other rare birds; and being a favourite retreat of her Majesty, it is kept in the utmost order and neatness.

On the south, towards Richmond, is a small park, in which stands an elegant observatory; it was formerly under the direc-

tion of the late ingenious Doctor Demainbry, and is now under the care of that gentleman's son, and contains a complete collection of instruments for astronomical observation, and other mathematical studies.

Kew gardens, are open for the inspection of the curious, every Monday from Midsummer till the latter end of Autumn, as are also those of Richmond, every Sunday during the same period.

Richmond park is about eleven miles in circumference ; is situated between Richmond and Kingston ; was made in the reign of King Charles II. and is inclosed by a brick wall. The woods it contains are extensive, and abound with many stately forest trees. It is well stocked with numerous herds of fine deer, and a variety of other game ; the grounds are unequal, and in many parts picturesquely rude, affording rich pasturage and shelter, for its wild inhabitants.—From the skirts of the woods, in the high ground, on the northern side of the park, the views

are as various as they are pleasant. Here are several handsome lodges, particularly one built by Sir Robert Walpole, afterwards Earl of Orford.—The Earl of Bute is the present ranger, and the Honourable James Stuart, son to that nobleman, is deputy ranger, and resides in the park.

From the gates of Richmond park, we descend a steep hill, through an avenue of stately trees, towards Petersham; at the bottom of which, on the left, close to the road, stands a house which formerly belonged to the Earl of Harrington, and was built for his lordship from a design of the late Earl of Burlington; which, though simple, is elegant and regular, and the front towards the gardens is particularly admired. A high hill finely clothed with wood, being a continuation of that ridge, on the declivity of which the village of Richmond stands, stretches for a considerable distance to the south-west; overlooks the house and gardens, forming a noble back ground when viewed from the opposite side of the river.

—This house stands on the site of an elegant mansion, built by the Earl of Rochester, lord high treasurer in the reign of James II. and was consumed by fire in 1720, by which accident the fine collection of paintings, the curious library, and the inestimable manuscripts of Lord Clarendon, author of the History of the Rebellion in 1646, were unfortunately destroyed.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence having lately purchased this seat from Lord Camelford, intends it for his future residence, and it is now fitting up for his reception.

Close to this is the village of Petersham, which contains many handsome houses. It is said to be of great antiquity, and formerly to have enjoyed great and peculiar privileges; and gives the title of Viscount to the Earl of Harrington.

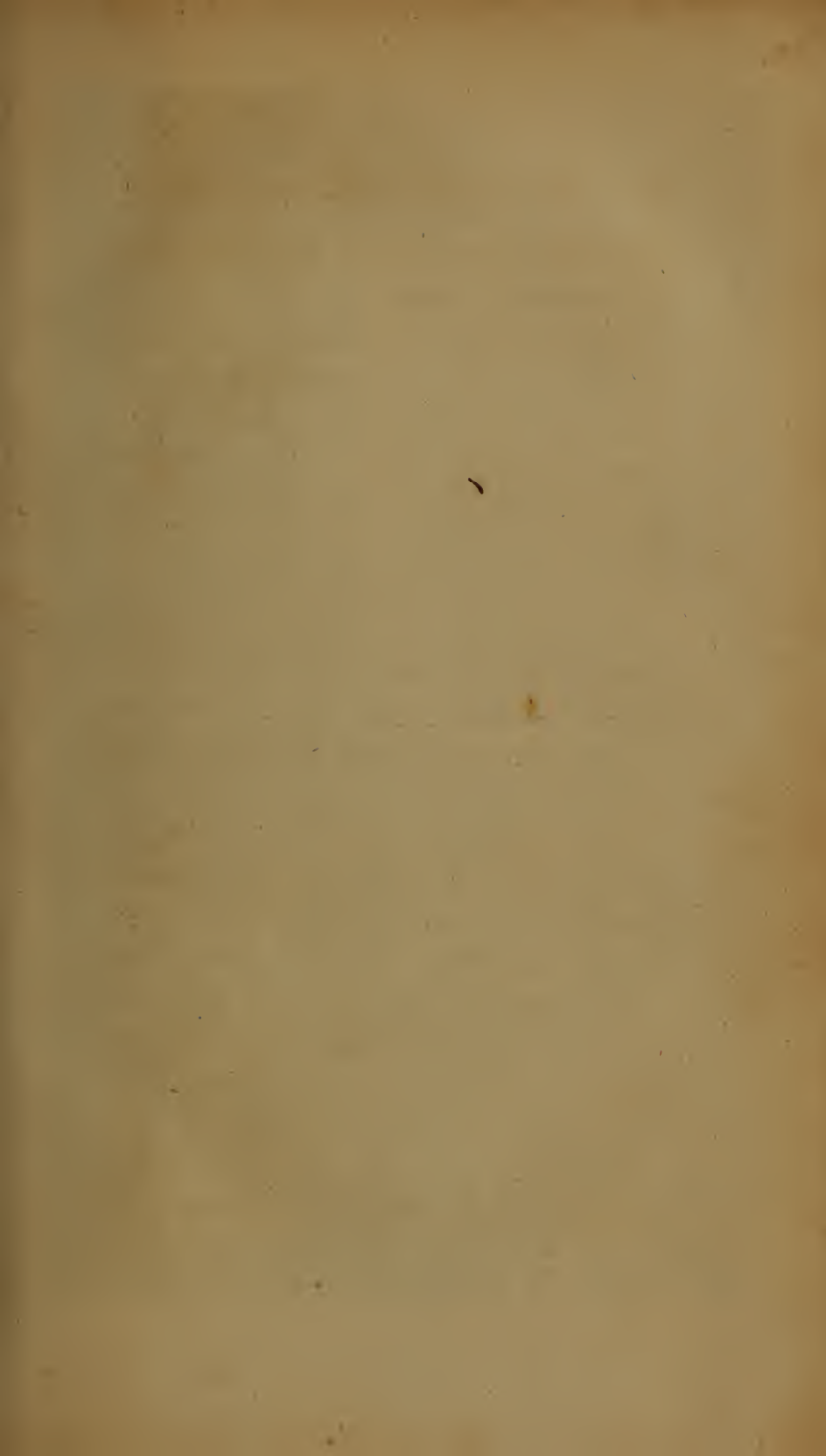
A little farther, near Ham, is an ancient house belonging to the Earl of Dysart, which was formerly the residence of the Duke of Lauderdale, and contains a collection of va-

luable portraits by Vandyke, Sir Peter Lilly, and other masters.

From Richmond, the road to Twickenham turns to the right, over a bridge of stone composed of five arches; which has recesses supported by projecting piers, with a handsome pavement on each side, guarded by a balustrade. This commodious and elegant bridge gives an additional grace to the river, is a beautiful object from every quarter whence it is seen, and was built from a design of the late Mr. Paine. A toll is likewise levied here from passengers of all denominations.

Near Richmond bridge, on the left, is the seat of Owen Cambridge, Esq. the house is ancient; contains some valuable pictures; and the grounds and lawns are laid out with that gentleman's usual taste and judgment.

A little beyond this, stands Marble-hill, a seat of the Earl of Buckinghamshire. The house is elegant, delightfully situated, and was built by the Countess of Suffolk, from a design of the late Earl of Pembroke.





View of Richmond Bridge looking Southward

Near this, by the river, is a small but neat house, the residence of Lady Diana Beauclerk ; some of the apartments in which are decorated with beautiful paintings by her own hand, in a style that would do honour to the pencil of the most eminent artist. This pleasant retreat is also the property of the Earl of Buckinghamshire.

On the opposite banks of the river, fronting Marble Hill, is a house which was a favourite retreat, and the property of the late Duke of Montague ; since whose death it has devolved to the family of the Duke of Buccleugh, that nobleman's son-in-law.

Twickenham, is a village on the Thames, between Isleworth and Tuddington, composed of many handsome houses, and villas, too numerous here to be particularly described ; among the most remarkable, are, the house of Sir George Pocock, built by Secretary Johnson ; and that which was the residence and property of the celebrated Mr. Pope, enlarged and improved by Sir William Stanhope ; now belonging

to W. Ellis, Esq. The church is a handsome Doric structure, and contributes to the beauty of the village.

STRAWBERRY HILL.

Near Twickenham, close by the river, is Strawberry Hill, the seat of the Honourable Horace Walpole ; which from its singularity is worthy of particular notice. The house is of Gothic architecture, and in its appearance resembles an ancient priory: the same idea prevails within, the apartments being arranged and fitted up in the style of a religious house. This seat may be considered as a model, and it assimilates two ideas of Milton, "*'tis bosomed high in tufted trees,*" and by its construction, "*light is taught to counterfeit a gloom.*" Though it is not built in a manner to resist the force of time; yet its form and contents will be preserved in the libraries of the curious, by a descriptive catalogue, illustrated with prints, written by the honourable possessor, and printed

at his own press.—The last circumstance will commemorate this habitation when no part of it remains.

Among the variety of curiosities which this house contains, we shall only notice the following:—A valuable collection of portraits and cabinet pictures in oil, besides a great number of capital miniatures; a large museum of antiquities; some valuable sculpture; and other extraordinary pieces of art. The library is composed of rare and valuable books, in different languages.--Among a large collection of prints, is a fine set of the works of Faithorne, chiefly portraits; some of which, though little known, may be ranked among the best productions of the art of engraving at that period; also, seventeen volumes folio of portraits, two of them entirely of artists, properly arranged, and enriched with notes.

Returning from hence, and repassing Richmond bridge, on the left, close to the Thames, stands a spacious house belonging to the Duke of Queensberry, where his

Grace often resides: the building is low, but the front is of great extent, and makes a handsome appearance. A little farther is an elegant little villa, built by Sir Charles Asgill, from a design of the late Sir Robert Taylor, now in the possession of Mr. Keane. The house is a beautiful piece of architecture; and the gardens are neat, and planted with taste.

Nearly opposite to this, on the north shore of the river, in a retired situation, is Twickenham Park, the late residence of the Earl of Montrath; now in the possession of Lord Frederick Cavendish. The mansion is large, nearly surrounded by wood; and the grounds are pleasant, extending along the Thames to the village of Isleworth.

SECT. III.

WE now return to the high road, and proceed to Brentford, which has little to boast of besides its situation. It stands on the north shore of the Thames, and is chiefly composed of one street of great length: the houses in general are irregular, small, and ill built; and, whether viewed from the river, or other parts of the neighbourhood, appear to no great advantage. — From hence a considerable trade in corn, malt, and other commodities, is carried on, by means of the Thames, to the capital.—At Brentford are two churches, one of which is a chapel of ease to Great Ealing; and the election of knights of the shire for Middlesex is held here.

In 1642, Charles I. after defeating the rebels at Edge-hill, marched his army to

Brentford, attacked the parliament forces which defended it, and gained a victory over them; their commander being killed, and five hundred prisoners were taken. In recompense for the gallant behaviour of Ruthen Earl of Forth in this battle, he was made general of the king's forces, and was afterwards advanced to the dignity of Earl of Brentford; which title became extinct at his death in 1651.

SION HOUSE.

A little beyond Brentford, on the left, stands Sion House, one of the seats of the Duke of Northumberland; the approach to which, from the high road, is ornamented by a beautiful arch, with an open colonade, and a handsome lodge on each side, forming an elegant and picturesque piece of architecture.

Sion House takes its name from a monastery, founded here by Henry V. in 1414. In a succeeding reign (that of Edward

Ham Lodge.



VI.) it was given by the king to his uncle the protector, who, about 1547, began to build this magnificent structure, the walls of which now remain, with some alterations. After the attainder and execution of this nobleman, Sion was confiscated; and was afterwards given to the Duke of Northumberland, on whose condemnation and execution in 1553, it again reverted to the crown. King James II. in consideration of the eminent services of Henry Earl of Northumberland, gave Sion to him and his heirs for ever. The two noble families of Somerset and Northumberland, afterwards uniting by marriage; Sion with other considerable estates, descended to their representative, the present Duke of Northumberland.

This seat is situated between Brentford and Isleworth, in a spacious lawn on the banks of the Thames, diversified by a pleasing variety of woody scenery. The house is a magnificent structure of white stone, built in the form of a hollow square; having at each angle, a square tower, consi-

derably higher than the intermediate parts of the building : The roof is flat, surrounded by embattled turrets ; and the east front, towards the river and royal gardens of Richmond, is supported on arches, forming a noble piazza.

In the year 1762, the late Duke of Northumberland began to make considerable alterations and improvements at Sion House, and employed Robert Adam, Esq. as architect. The apartments, which are spacious, are fitted up and decorated in the antique style, and are worthy the notice of the curious. The great hall at the entrance, is two stories high ; and contains several antique marble figures, standing on pedestals. Adjoining the hall is an anti-chamber, where are twelve columns of verd antique marble, which support twelve statues ; and the pannels are adorned with trophies.

Next to the anti-room is the great dining room, finished in stucco, with circular recesses at each end, decorated with screens of columns, and marble statues in niches,

by the best modern statuaries. Adjoining the eating room is the drawing room; the ceiling of which is coved and painted in compartments; and the mouldings, being all gilt, have a rich and elegant appearance: this gives access to an old gallery, finished in the style of a museum, which affords great variety of amusement. The grounds, round this magnificent seat, were also altered by the late noble possessor, in his usual liberal manner. Many other improvements have been proposed, but are not yet carried into execution.

On the south, near Sion House, is the cheerful village of Isleworth, on the banks of the Thames: in its neighbourhood are many handsome houses, and some seats.—The church is a handsome modern building, and a venerable tower covered with ivy, which belonged to the former church, is preserved.

Opposite Sion Lodge, a road turns to the right, and leads to Sion Hill; an elegant little villa belonging to the Duke of Marlbo-

rough. The house is a handsome building, and serves as a pleasant retreat for his Grace, and his noble family. The grounds are rather contracted, but pleasant and well wooded; were laid out under the direction of the late Mr. Brown; and extend to the great road.

At a little distance is the seat of John Robinson, Esq. a neat building, with extensive offices, which stands pleasantly in a small paddock. The land here is rich and valuable; and though of small extent, gives the superiority of a manor to the proprietor.

OSTERLY PARK.

About a mile farther we approach Osterly Park, and enter it by a gate; on each side of which is a handsome lodge. This park is about six miles in circumference; abounds with wood; and its grounds are more varied than most others in this part of the country. The house is a magnificent structure, of a square form, having a tower

at each outward angle. The ascent to the east front, is by a grand flight of steps, to an open saloon, or portico, that leads to the principal door of the hall; which is much admired for simplicity of decoration, and a pleasing form.

The apartments are spacious, and were fitted up and improved by the late proprietor, Robert Child, Esq. in the most sumptuous and costly manner. The dining room, drawing room, and bed chambers, are finished and furnished in the first style of elegance and grandeur; and the Etruscan room is particularly worthy of notice.—In the drawing room are some pictures of Titian, Rembrandt, and others, which are fine productions of genius; and the grand gallery contains a number of paintings by different masters, that would not disgrace the collection of any prince in Europe. The ornaments of the eating room are in stucco; in the great pannels are introduced some fine paintings by Signor Zucchi; and over the doors are pictures representing the four

quarters of the globe by the same master. Among other things that attract attention here, is a bed of green velvet, embroidered with flowers in natural colours; the carpets, glass frames, and other parts of the furniture corresponding, contribute much to that harmony and agreement of parts, for which this house is so particularly celebrated.—The whole of these decorations were from the designs, and executed under the immediate direction of Robert Adam, Esq. to whose taste and judgment they do infinite honour.

From the lodges at the entrance of the park we descend a spacious road, between two pieces of water, which being on different levels, may be termed the upper and lower.—The former of these is opposite the east front, and in view from the house; and though not large, gives beauty and variety to this part of the park.—The lower water is of much greater extent, partly inclosed by woods, through which it makes a noble sweep; and its banks having a variety of

scenery in pleasing confusion, give it the appearance of a natural lake.

On a beautiful sloping bank beneath a wood, on the north shore of the lake, stands an elegant menagerie, containing a large collection of exotic and curious birds ; and the surrounding woods resound the echoing and plaintive notes of a variety of beautiful water fowl, constantly skimming the surface of the water.—On the north there is a rookery, the numerous tribes of which seem to have been in a superior degree directed by instinct, to make choice of this, as an asylum, and secure place of abode, as it is for the rest of the feathered creation ; and through their hoarse sounding throats, proclaim the happiness and liberty they enjoy, in common with the other more beautiful inhabitants of this protected spot.—Here the lake bends to the north-west, over which at some distance is a bridge of stone ; beyond this it contracts, and is lost to the eye.

Towards the right, near the nine mile stone, on the edge of a common, is Spring

Grove, a neat house, the summer residence of Sir Joseph Banks, President of the Royal Society; celebrated for his great knowledge in botany, to whom the lovers of that science, and the world in general, will be infinitely indebted, when the most voluminous and expensive work ever attempted in any country, now preparing by that gentleman on this subject, will be given to the public.

Whitton Place, situated about ten miles from London, on the left of the road, near Hounslow, was built by the late Archibald Duke of Argyle, on ground granted him by the crown; part of which was taken from Hounslow Heath.—The gardens were laid out with elegance and taste by the noble possessor, agreeable to the style of that period, abounding with cedars, and a variety of other ever-greens, some of which are arrived to a high degree of perfection. Here were conservatories for exotic and other plants, forming a grand collection.

Since the death of the Duke of Argyle, Whitton Place has passed through the hands of several proprietors ; was much neglected until it came into the possession of George Gostling, Esq. who converted the great conservatory into a stately mansion, and divided the grounds ; annexing one part to the former house, which was purchased by Sir William Chambers, and retaining the remainder, formed them into two distinct villas.

Whitton House has been much improved since it became the property of Sir William Chambers ; and the gardens emulate those of an Italian villa, having temples, statues, ruins, and other decorations coinciding with that idea. In commemoration of the happy recovery of his Majesty in 1788, the temple of Æsculapius has been erected, and in letters of gold over the door, is the following inscription :

ÆSCVLAPIO SALV. AVG. RESTITVIT.
SACR. MDCCLXXXIX.

The house is a handsome regular building, contains some fine pictures, original

drawings, and an excellent library, in which are many valuable books on ancient and modern architecture.

The village of Hounslow, is a principal stage on the western road, near ten miles from London, on the skirts of Hounslow Heath; it belongs to two parishes; to Heston on the north, and to Isleworth on the south: has many good inns, and is chiefly supported by the road.

On the north-east of the Heath, towards King's Arbor, are the traces of a small Roman camp, ninety paces by one hundred and thirty-two, and another about a mile distant from it: One of these Stukley gives to Cæsar, and mentions his having had another, where the church of Kingsbury now stands; and traces his march from Coway Stakes to *Cassibellan's Oppidum* at Watford and Rickmansworth. In Sion House is an ancient map of Isleworth hundred, in which are marked two royal camps, by the name of *Shakesbury Hills*, on this heath, near Cranford.

SECT IV.

*Retrospect of the Country from London to
Hounslow.*

THE road from London to Hounslow, runs nearly on a level ; the country on the left, imperceptibly declining to the Thames. The grounds, on each side, are chiefly occupied by gardens, nurseries, and orchards, with almost a continued chain of buildings, of various dimensions and appearances, extending for more than eight miles from the metropolis. West of Kensington, on the right, are gentle-rising grounds ; with houses, inclosures, and some wood intermixed : And beyond Brentford, towards

Hounslow, the country is diversified by cultivation, ornamented villas, and woody scenery.

The banks of the Thames, from Westminster bridge to Putney and Fulham, display no remarkable features ; they are however rendered pleasant by a great number of cheerful villages, with a variety of other buildings, clustered on the shores.

Lambeth, a village in Surrey, is situated on the Thames, near Westminster bridge ; in which stands an ancient palace, the residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury. This structure was originally built by Baldwin, archbishop of that see, about the year 1188. In 1250, Bishop Boniface, having by his arrogance rendered himself obnoxious to the citizens of London, retired hither as a place of safety ; and finding it in a ruinous condition, rebuilt the north front, and made many other improvements.

From that period, Lambeth Palace became the habitation of some of the greatest characters at the head of the church ; and was by

its successive possessors, enlarged by many additional buildings; to which circumstance that want of uniformity, so conspicuous in it, is to be attributed. It stands close to the river, is well sheltered from the north by trees, and has a stately and picturesque appearance when viewed from the opposite shore; and particularly from Westminster bridge.

This palace contains a valuable library; which is annexed to the archiepiscopal see of Canterbury, and is said to consist of near fifteen thousand volumes of printed books, and above six hundred volumes of manuscripts.

A little higher on the Surrey shore is Vauxhall, once the seat of Sir Thomas Morland; now a fashionable place for amusements on summer evenings. The gardens are spacious, abounding with wood, and have a variety of gravel walks which are kept in perfect order. Near the entrance stands a building, in the form of a temple, having a fine organ, and an ele-

gant orchestra ; where a select band of vocal and instrumental performers attends in the season. Contiguous is a rotunda, with a saloon and other rooms of large dimensions, decorated with paintings ; well adapted for musical performances, and entertainments peculiar to the place ; and are frequently made use of for these purposes.

Chelsea College (before taken notice of) has a noble and stately appearance from the river ; and adds dignity to the village in which it stands. From the southern extremity of Chelsea, a handsome wooden bridge stretches across the Thames ; and leads to Battersea, which is situated a little higher on the Surrey shore ; consisting of good houses, with a handsome modern church.

Battersea gives the title of Baron to the Lord Viscount Bolingbroke ; to whose ancestors the manor of that name, together with that of Wandsworth, were granted by King Charles I.

About a mile farther, on opposite shores

of the river, are the two large and populous villages of Putney and Fulham, which are joined by a bridge of great length, built of timber.—From hence the views are pleasingly picturesque ; the banks of the Thames being unequal, diversified with wood and buildings.

Fulham stands in Middlesex ; and in the Conqueror's time it was held of the king, by the canons of St. Paul's. Here is an ancient mansion, belonging to the see of London, which has been the residence of its successive bishops for many years.

Proceeding higher, and leaving Chiswick on the right, a continuation of the same kind of scenery leads to Richmond ; on our approach to which the country becomes more characteristic.

Here, the Thames stretches in a noble sweep towards the south, at the foot of Richmond Hill ; then bending to the west, retires beneath its shade, and is lost to the sight. The northern shores of the river being low ; composed of beautiful lawns

and meadows, form a pleasing contrast to the higher grounds of the southern.

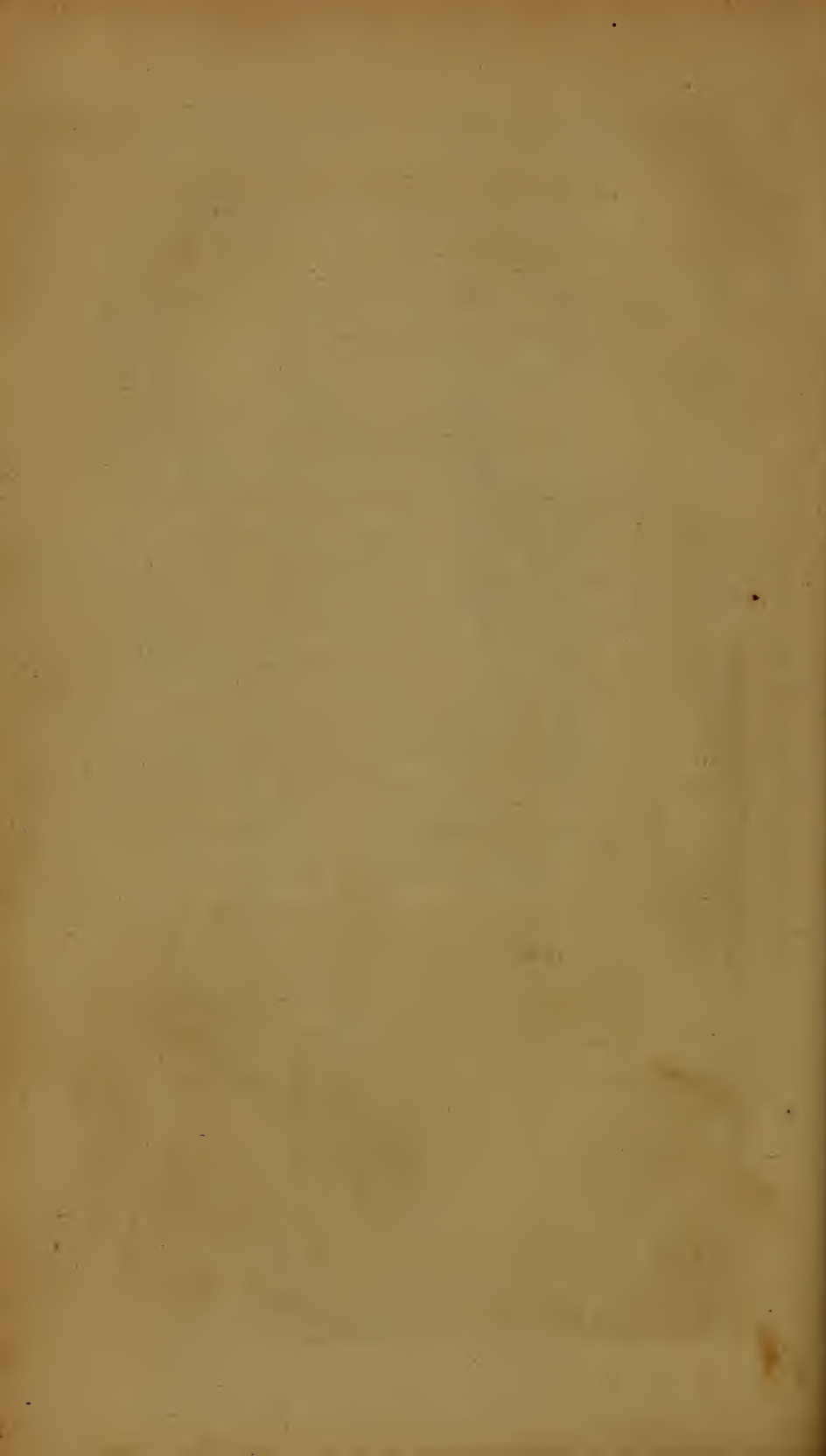
Richmond Hill is adorned by handsome houses, elegant villas, and interspersed with woody scenery, from its summit to the margin of the Thames. In the center of the landscape a handsome bridge presents itself; beyond this, at some distance, a high hill finely hung with wood rises stately on the south, forming a noble back-ground to the whole; which may be deemed a picturesque and elegant composition.

The Thames, being the grand channel of communication from the interior parts of England lying west from the capital, an immense trade in corn, timber, and other merchandize is constantly carried on by its means; in which great numbers of craft of various burthens are constantly employed.

The variety of pleasure boats, and other small vessels, constantly to be seen navigating this river; the incredible numbers of shipping, from every quarter of the globe, trading to the metropolis; together with

Richmond Mill looking Southward.





the scenery described—unite in constituting the Thames the most beautiful, most wealthy, and most consequential river in the universe.

A little beyond Hounslow, the Bath road branches off the great western road, in a north-west direction, along the skirts of Hounslow Heath. This waste is a dead flat, of great extent, and having little variety, the weary traveller wishes to hasten speedily from it. The scene is indeed a little changed, by the intervention of some wood and cultivated land, taken from the common near Cranford bridge ; beyond which it again assumes its dreary aspect, extending to the fourteen mile stone.

About twelve miles and a half from London, the river Crane (which may be here termed a rivulet) crosses the Bath road. Here is a commodious bridge, built of brick ; near which, on the north, lies the village of Cranford.

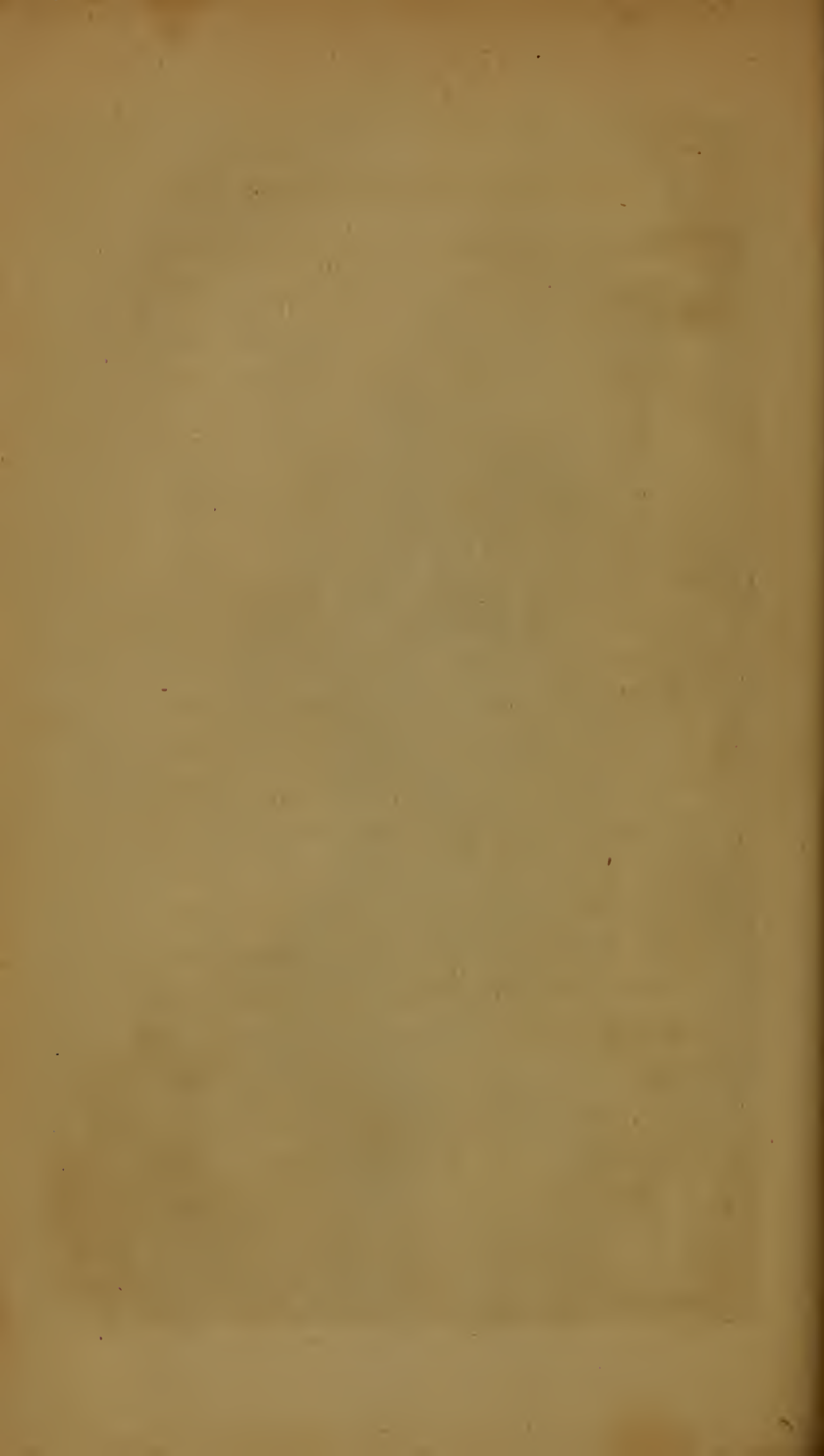
Cranford Park, the seat of the Earl of Berkley, is at a little distance. The park is a perfect flat, abounding with wood, and well watered by the Crane. The house is ancient, and is situated in an angle of the park near the church: though it commands no variety of prospects, yet from the distribution of the woods, and other accompaniments, it may be deemed a pleasant retirement. Cranford, notwithstanding its vicinity to the metropolis, is celebrated for game, particularly pheasants; which are to be seen here, in great numbers; considerable pains being taken by the noble proprietor for their preservation.

The road beyond Cranford bridge still continues level. On the right near Drayton, is Dawley, formerly the seat of Lord Viscount Bolingbroke; by whom it was purchased from the Earl of Tankerville, and now belongs to Edmund Stephenson, Esq.

Passing through the pretty village of Longford towards the town of Colnbrook, the road becomes more pleasant. Acciden-



View at Longford.



tal glances of the stately towers of Windsor Castle are obtained, and though not distinctly seen, they contribute to cheer the mind after the dreary scene that has been described.

Near the Roman Way, which runs from Brentford to Staines, on a branch of the road from Hounslow to Colnbrook, lies the village of Arlington, or Harlington; which, with Dawley, was formerly the seat of the Bennets, and gave the title of baron to that family in 1663: which title is handed down to the Duke of Grafton, who is descended, by the female line, from the only daughter of John Bennet, Baron Arlington.

Colnbrook, is about seventeen miles from London, situated on several channels of the river Coln, over each of which there is a small bridge. A part of this town is in Middlesex, but the greater part is in Buckinghamshire. It contains many good inns, which, together with the market, are its chief support. Here a charity school

and a chapel, said to be founded by Edward III. are still remaining.

Gale, Burton, Baxter, and Stukley, agree with Camden, in fixing *Pontes* at Colnbrook; however Leland inclines to Reading.

COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM.

At Colnbrook the traveller enters Buckinghamshire. This county is about thirty-nine miles in length, eighteen in breadth, and one hundred and thirty-eight in circumference. It contains eight hundreds, one hundred and eighty-five parishes, eleven market towns, and sixteen hundred villages.

It is bounded, on the south by the Thames, which separates it from Berkshire; on the west by Oxfordshire; by Northamptonshire on the north; and by Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, and Middlesex on the east.

Its chief rivers are, the Thames, the Ouse, and the Coln. The soil is in general fruitful, producing much corn and timber; par-

ticularly beech; and in many parts it abounds with rich pasturage. The air of Buckinghamshire is esteemed healthy, a chalky soil prevailing over a great part of it. It lies in the province of Canterbury, and diocess of Lincoln.

Notwithstanding the ample manner by which London and its suburbs are supplied with water, from the river Lea, and the Thames; a scheme was some time ago in contemplation, to convey a part of the river Coln, to the western division of the metropolis. A survey was made, and the intended plan found practicable. From the astonishing increase of London and Westminster, and their present rapid progress, it is not improbable, that there may be a necessity, for an additional supply of water; and it is fortunate these cities are so situated, that so noble a scheme may be adopted, should it be found requisite.

Near Colnbrook, on the right, is Percy Lodge, a seat of the Earl of Tankerville; celebrated for having been the residence of

Frances Countess of Hertford, afterwards Dutchess of Somerset. In a collection of letters published by Mr. Hall, in two volumes, are included eleven letters from the pen of this lady, of which Mr. Shenstone has given the following character.

“ That there are discernable in them, a
 “ perfect rectitude of heart, delicacy of sen-
 “ timent, and a truly classic ease and ele-
 “ gance of style.”

These letters are also to be found in a late publication, entitled *Elegant Epistles*, printed for Charles Dilly.

Near the village of Langley, stands Langley Park, the seat of Sir Robert Bateson Hervey. The house is a handsome stone building, situated in the centre of a pleasant park, which abounds with a variety of fine timber. A piece of water runs along the south front of this mansion, at the foot of a sloping lawn ; on which are scattered some beautiful clumps of stately trees, and other woody scenery.

A rising ground, on the western ex-

tremity of this park, leads to an inclosure, called the Black Park ; which being singular, is worthy of notice.

It is of considerable extent, is covered by fir woods, (through which roads are cut) excepting the centre, which is occupied by a lake of deep and clear water. The approach to it rather surprizes ; having more the character of alpine scenery, than any thing we are led to expect near Langley : and when on the banks of the lake, totally sequestered from the surrounding cheerful country, by gloomy woods of deep-tinted firs, this idea is still more forcibly impressed on the mind.

This spot is certainly capable of great improvement, and might be laid out to advantage :——Taste and judgment would convert it into a very uncommon and pleasing retirement ; and add variety to the other appendages of this estate.—Langley Park belonged to the Duke of Marlborough, of whom it was purchased by the present possessor.

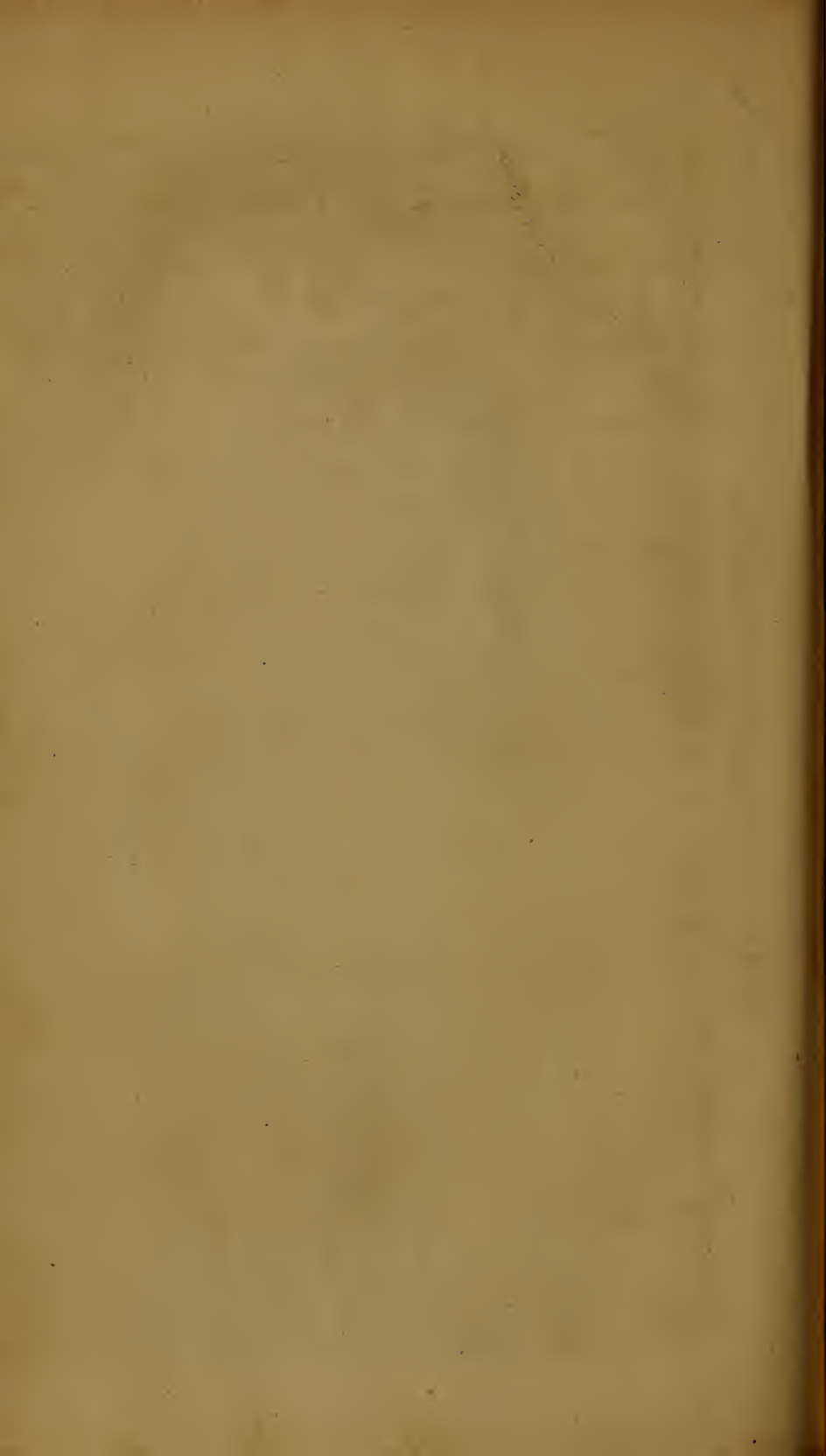
On the left of the road, near the village of Datchet, is Ditton Park. The house is ancient and venerable, surrounded by a moat of water ; it stands pleasantly in a fine park, which is well supplied with wood. This mansion is said to have been built by Sir Ralph Winwood, secretary of state to King James I. Coming into the possession of the Montagues, it descended to the Dutchess of Manchester, eldest daughter and joint heiress to that noble family.

Lord Beaulieu being afterwards married to this lady, Ditton Park came into his possession ; by him it has been much improved, and is now generally known by the name of Beaulieu Park. Here is a gallery, containing a collection of good pictures ; the apartments are elegant and well furnished.

After we pass Colnbrook, the road exhibits a little more variety ;—on the right lies a well cultivated country, rendered cheerful by villages and houses, interspersed with woods, and the lofty towers of Windsor

Windsor Castle from the left of Stough.





Castle, are often caught by the eye through the scenery on the opposite side.

Approaching Slough, it becomes more pleasant, the eye having a little more space to range in ; but still the views on the left, are too much broken and interrupted, by a tiresome continuation of scattered trees.

From the fields below, (where the intervention of such objects can be avoided) the Castle appears to advantage ; having the town and college of Eton in the valley on the right, and the distance closed by the royal forests on the south ; forming a pleasing and picturesque scene.

Slough is a large village, in the road, about a mile and a half distant from Windsor, composed chiefly of one street ; the houses are tolerably built, and it contains some good inns.

Near this village, on the left of the road to Eton and Windsor, stands the house of the celebrated Doctor Herschell ; by whose extraordinary improvements in the construction of telescopes, many discoveries

have been lately made in the noble and useful science of astronomy. The apparatus, which gives motion to his grand telescope, is seen from the high road.

The establishment of Doctor Herschell, is at the expence of his Majesty ; and is one of the numerous instances in which the king displays a love of genius and science, and a disposition to patronize them.

SECT. V.

WINDSOR CASTLE has been a royal residence, with some interruption, from the Conquest to the present reign ; and whether regarded as a fortress or royal palace, equally commands our admiration.

It stands conspicuously on a high hill, the base of which is washed by the most beautiful river in this or any other country. It commands extensive prospects to the north, to the west, and towards the capital ; on the south, the views are bounded by noble forests, with a variety of other scenery.

This venerable and majestic edifice, is about one mile in circumference, and is divided into two spacious courts, called the

upper and lower wards. The center, being the highest ground, is occupied by a stately round tower ; the magnitude of which, adds dignity to the whole.

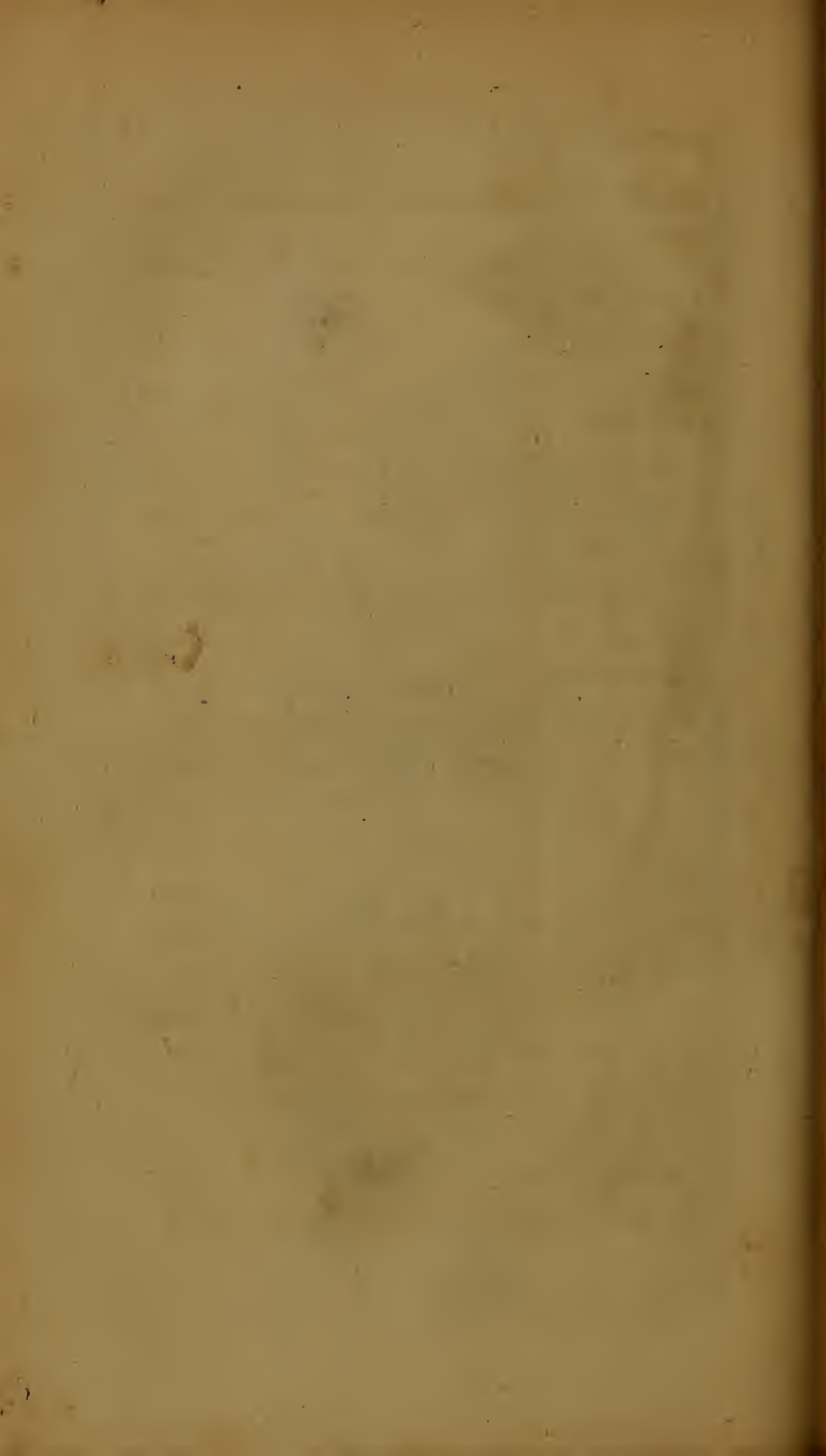
From the surrounding country, Windsor Castle is seen to great advantage ; its grandeur and magnitude attract the eye from every quarter. Its solemn and majestic appearance impresses the mind of the beholder with awe and veneration ; and its situation seems to have been pointed out by nature for the seat of monarchs.

At Windsor, William the Conqueror first built a palace, which was afterwards fortified by Henry I. Edward III. enlarged it, destroyed the ancient fortifications, and erected the present stately Castle ; surrounding it with ramparts and ditches. The whole of these alterations were made under the direction of William of Wickham, afterwards Bishop of Winchester.

In the reign of the last-mentioned prince, the Kings of France and Scotland were at the same time prisoners in Windsor



Windsor Castle looking Eastward.



Castle ; and the most noble order of the garter was instituted here by him. Several additions and alterations, were made in the successive reigns : St. George's chapel was rebuilt by Henry IV. in a magnificent style ; and the grand terrace on the north and east sides of the Castle, was added by Queen Elizabeth.

This fortress having suffered much during the times of civil commotion, by plunder and rapine, King Charles II. after his restoration, had it repaired with more than its former splendour, and made many improvements in it.

The state apartments are magnificent, and are superbly fitted up. The furniture is rich ; many of the ceilings are finely painted ; and a great number of pictures by the most eminent masters, adorn the different chambers ; among which are the celebrated Cartoons by Raphael, removed from Hampton Court.

Of the many improvements made by their present Majesties in Windsor Castle, those

in the audience chamber claim our particular notice. In this room are eight pictures from the pencil of B. West, Esq. historical painter to his Majesty ; which include about fifteen years, the most brilliant period, of the reign of Edward III. This illustrious sovereign, his queen, and his son the Black Prince, are distinguished characters in these paintings.—The subjects are as follow :

Edward crossing the Somme, being his first entrance into France with his army.

Edward embracing his son the Black Prince in the field, after the battle of Cressy.

The defeat of David King of Scots, by Queen Philippa, at Nevil's-cross, where that monarch was taken prisoner.

Queen Philippa's intercession in behalf of St. Pierre, and the brave burghers of Calais, on the surrender of that place.

The institution of the noble order of the garter.

Edward crowning Rubimont at Calais.

Edward the Black Prince receiving the

King of France his prisoner, after the battle of Poitiers.

St. George, introduced as the tutelar saint of England, and patron of the most noble order of the garter, rescuing the damsel from the dragon.

These glorious subjects, selected from the history of the brilliant reign of Edward III. being in themselves deserving of the conspicuous situation they occupy, are rendered more worthy of it, by the judicious manner in which they have been treated, by so able a master of historical composition. Besides their other merits, they are valuable to the English nation, as registers of many of the illustrious families of this country, who had their origin at, or prior to the periods whence these historical facts were taken ; and may be known by their armorial bearings, on their shields, sur-coats, banners, and crests.

We have authority to say, a set of prints are to be engraved from these paintings, some of which are already begun.

In this room, a superb throne has been erected, which is worthy of particular notice. The part which first engages the attention, is the body or space above the chair of state: its principal feature consists of a form composed in the style of an altar; which has on its base the arms of Great Britain, with the proper supporters. Round the shaft of the altar is twined the oak branch, bound up to the column by the garter belonging to the noble order of that name. In the middle of the capital, the star of the order; and upon the capital, a large vase, on the front of which is the figure of Britannia; and over this is the collar of the order, with the George pendant.

Festoons of flowers hang from the vase; in the base, on the side of the lion, is a basket of flowers; and on that of the unicorn is another, filled with roses and thistles, painted by Miss Mozer.

On the plinth is a medallion, on which are painted two figures representing Justice and Fortitude: and from each end rise

two pilasters ; that on the right has on its lower part the figure of Neptune, and over that, a Triton with marine attributes. A medallion occupies the center, and contains a picture representing the woollen staple of England ; and from thence upwards, are the attributes of commerce, with Mercury presiding. The pilaster on the left, has on the base the figure of the Earth ; over this are various animals, in the midst of which is seen the white horse. On the frieze, above the pilasters, is a large medallion, containing the portraits of their Majesties in profile, supported by two figures representing Virtue and Religion. These embellishments are painted in colours, on a gold ground, by Rebecca.

Round the canopy hang elegant festoons of flowers ; the whole of which, as well as those on the throne, were executed in needle-work, by and under the direction of Mrs. Pawsey (niece to the late Mrs. Wright), who presides over her Majesty's benevolent institution for the support of the daugh-

ters of decayed clergymen and officers. The general form, the decorations, and the chair of state, are by Mr. Campbell ; the whole from the designs of Mr. West.

St. George's chapel has undergone the following alterations and repairs, by order of his Majesty.

The monument of Edward the Black Prince, was repaired and cleaned. A new organ loft of artificial stone has been erected ; and a magnificent organ by Mr. Green. Four new stalls, for knights companions of the most noble order of the garter, have been made ; and an elegant window in painted glass by Mr. Jarvis, after a picture of the resurrection by Mr. West, adorns the chapel. The closet, where their Majesties sit to hear divine service, has been beautified, and the chapel has been paved with stone, found in the choir. One new window has been added : the whole of the old casements were taken away, and are replaced with elegant sashes of Eldorado metal.

The town of Windsor, in Berkshire, is

twenty-two miles from London ; situated on the declivity of the hill on which the Castle stands, rising from the Thames to the walls of that fortress. It was granted by Edward the Confessor to Wesminster Abbey, but the abbot exchanged it with William the Conqueror for Battersea and Wandsworth in Surrey, and other lands in Essex. It is of considerable extent, and of great antiquity ; having been constituted a borough by Edward I. with great privileges, such as exemption from all tolls of bridges, markets, and fairs. It sent members to parliament, from the thirteenth of his reign, to the fourteenth of Edward III. when it was intermitted, till the twenty-fifth of Henry VI. but has sent them ever since. They are elected by the inhabitants, the mayor being the returning officer. In the high street is a handsome town hall, supported by columns ; it was built in the time of Charles I. and the church is a building of large dimensions.

Windsor had charters from K. James I.

and II. by which the corporation was to consist of a mayor, high steward, and deputy ; a town clerk, two bailiffs, and twenty-eight burgesses, chosen from the principal inhabitants, thirteen of whom are denominated fellows of the guildhall ; ten of those are called aldermen ; out of which are to be chosen the mayor and bailiffs.

The manor of Windsor, which was granted, or rather leased, to the corporation, by James I. on paying a quit-rent of about four pounds a year, has jurisdiction over many lordships.

Old Windsor has little left to boast of besides its antiquity. It was formerly the seat of several of the Saxon kings, and formed a strong pass. From the period in which the Conqueror fixed his residence on the adjoining hill, it gradually went to decay ; a new town having sprung up under the protection of the fortress constructed by that monarch.

The Little Park occupies the north and east sides, under the terrace of the Castle.

It is about four miles in circumference ; its grounds are composed of a pleasing inequality, diversified by groups of stately trees, and other woody scenery, extending to the village of Datchet, and declining towards the Thames.

Windsor Great Park lies close to the south side of the town ; an avenue of near three miles in length, leads to the summit of a hill, beyond which the ranger's house delightfully stands ; this was the residence of the late Duke of Cumberland, as ranger.

This Park is about fourteen miles in circumference ; and displays a variety of scenery, in a style more sublime and beautiful than is often to be found. The country it occupies, consists of great and bold inequalities ; and its forests are picturesquely rude, affording inexhaustible subjects for the pencil of the able artist in rural landscape.

Towards its southern quarter is a noble and extensive piece of water, over which, near the western extremity, is an elegant

bridge of stone, built after a design by T. Sandby, Esq. under whose direction the water has been enlarged, and the grounds have been laid out with great taste.

The royal forests, according to Roque, make a circuit of fifty-six miles: they abound with fine deer, and a variety of other game; and are possessed of every requisite for elegant rural recreation, or the more manly exercises of the chace; the favourite amusement of many successive kings of England, as it is of his present Majesty.

In this neighbourhood stands Cranbourne Lodge, belonging to the Duke of Gloucester, as ranger of Cranbourne Chace. This was formerly in the possession of William Duke of Cumberland, who caused the military dresses of the different corps of the armies of Europe to be represented in painting, and regularly arranged on the panels of a spacious room;—and by military people they are esteemed curious.

Near this is St. Leonard's Hill, beautifully cloathed with venerable oaks, and

View from St. Lawrence's Hill.



stately beeches. On its eastern declivity stands the handsome house of L. Ainscombe, Esq. and its summit is adorned by a capital mansion, the residence of General Harcourt.

The inviting skirts of these extensive forests are rendered peculiarly pleasing, by the variety of cheerful villages, and elegant houses scattered on them; the whole coinciding with the magnificence of the royal seat, to which they form appendages.

In Windsor forest, on the heath, five miles from Sunning Hill, near Easthamstead Park, are the traces of a very large irregular camp, double trenched, called Cæsar's camp; and near the race ground, a mile from Sunning Hill Wells, on Ascot Heath, are four barrows, which lie on the south side, and near the turnpike road to Oakingham. The trenches round the larger, are about twelve feet wide, and two deep. From the middle of the trenches to the centers of the tops, is about forty-seven feet; and from the outside of the trenches, to the bottoms of the

lesser hillocks, about forty-five feet ; and those which have no trenches round them, are quite flat at the top ; not above three feet high, and forty feet over.

About two miles south-west from these barrows is Tower Hill. It is small and irregular ; very steep on every side, except the north-east. Here is the entrance to the entrenchment, that runs round the summit of the whole, following its irregularities. This hill is about three miles from Cæsar's camp ; a quarter of a mile from which are Wickham Bushes ; and a little south from them is a raised road, ninety feet wide, with a trench on each side, running east and west ; vulgarly termed the Devil's Highway.

From Windsor, a bridge over the Thames leads to Eton ; which is situated in a pleasant valley, on the banks of that river, and is celebrated for its college and public school.

Eton College was founded by Henry VI. some part of its endowment was taken

away by Edward VI. but being particularly exempted in the act of dissolution, it has continued in a flourishing state to the present time.

The foundation consists of a provost and seven fellows, one of which is vice-provost. Here are seventy boys, who are called king's scholars; those when qualified are elected, on the first Tuesday in August, to King's College, Cambridge; are called according to seniority; and after having been three years there, are entitled to a fellowship.

Eton school may be esteemed among the first for reputation in any country. It is divided into the lower and upper; and each into three classes, consisting of one master, and four assistants. The number of scholars, including those of the foundation, may amount to above four hundred.

The library is large and valuable, having been at different periods augmented by donations bequeathed by learned characters; among which are included a collection of books left by Dr. Waddington, Bishop of

Chester, valued at two thousand pounds:—and Lord Chief Justice Reeves presented to this library, the collection left him by Richard Topham, Esq. keeper of the records of the Tower.

The chapel is a stately Gothic structure; the school and other buildings are of modern architecture. In the great court, is a statue of the founder, which was executed at the expence of the late Dr. Godolphin, Dean of St. Paul's, their provost.

The village of Eton is large and populous; its public buildings render it consequential, and stamp it with a characteristic appearance. The approach to it from Slough, is over a small bridge, extending across a rivulet, which falls into the Thames a little way from it.—From hence we again return into the high road.

SECT VI.

A LITTLE beyond Slough, on the right, near the high road, is a handsome villa, the temporary residence of the Earl of Chesterfield. The house is a neat modern building, the grounds round it are pleasant, and the approach to it is by an avenue of stately firs.

From hence a road leads to the village of Stoke, which formerly went under the denomination of Stoke-Pogies; having been originally the inheritance of the Lords of Pogies, from whom it passed to the family of Hastings. Edward, Baron Hastings, founded an hospital here, for the support and maintenance of indigent persons of both sexes; and his brother adorned this

spot by building an elegant seat. This seat came afterwards into the possession of the Lady Cobham ; of whom it was purchased by Mr. Penn, one of the proprietors and governor of Pennsylvania ; now belonging to his representative, John Penn, Esq.

Since Stoke Park became the property of this gentleman, it has undergone great alterations. The ancient edifice which stood in an angle of the Park, close to the village, has been taken down, and a stately mansion has been erected in a more elevated situation towards the center, but is not yet compleated. A small piece of water in a serpentine form runs along the south front ; which being much sunk, is little seen from a distance. The Park is well supplied with wood, but has few trees of venerable aspect.

The east end of Stoke church-yard is rendered interesting to the traveller, by being the burying-place of the celebrated Mr. Gray.

Fernham, or Farnham Royal, is near this place ; it was formerly held by its different

possessors, on condition of finding the king a glove for his right hand, on his coronation day, and supporting his right arm, while he held the royal sceptre. When the ancestors of the present Earl of Shrewsbury exchanged this with Henry VIII. they reserved the privilege to themselves and their posterity.

Burnham is a village noted only for an Augustine nunnery, founded by Richard King of the Romans, in 1265; and for giving name to the hundred in which it stands. Close to this, in a pleasant situation, is a house, the summer residence of Lady Ravensworth, in view from the Bath road.

We next arrive at Salt Hill; a principal stage on the road, and noted for an elegant inn.

Beyond this, as we approach Maidenhead bridge, the country changes its appearance; becomes more characteristic and picturesque, and the woody hills of Taploe present themselves to view.

Taploe is a handsome village, elevated above the north shore of the Thames ; consisting of many good houses, and, from the pleasantness of its situation, many persons of fortune have been induced to fix their residence in it, and in its vicinity.

On the summit of the hill, close to the village, embosomed in wood, is Taploe House, an ancient and venerable edifice, belonging to the Earl of Inchiquin ; which, together with many other handsome houses to be seen upon its eastern declivity, have an agreeable appearance.

From hence a high ridge, forming a chain of hills, finely hung with wood, extends in a western direction to Hedsor, the estate of Lord Boston.

CLIEFDEN HOUSE.

Near the center of the ridge of hills above-mentioned, stands Cliefden House ; built by Villiers Duke of Buckingham, in the reign of Charles II. It was purchased by the first

View of Edinburgh House looking Northward.





Earl of Orkney ; and by marriage descended to the present Earl of Inchiquin.

This is a regular stately mansion, having a terrace in front, supported by arches. Its situation is lofty and conspicuous, and it is surrounded by noble and extensive woods. The pleasure gardens are spacious ; by nature finely formed into sloping lawns, hills, and vallies ; assisted by art with much taste.

The upper grounds, near the house, command most extensive prospects, over the surrounding country : and though views of this description, where too great an extent of horizon is seen, may not be the most pleasing to the eye of a painter ; yet when beheld through the vistas of these gardens, partially screened by groups of stately trees, and other objects, it must be allowed they contribute to the variety, and add to the beauty of the composition.

The southern declivity towards the Thames, is finely hung with natural woods, forming a different, but not less pleasing

kind of scenery; being a contrast to the upper and more polished grounds.

From the sides of precipices, formed by the falling of the mouldering chalk, (of which these hills are composed) and from lofty banks overhung by venerable and stately trees, we see the Thames pursuing its serpentine course, through beautiful meadows enlivened by numerous herds of cattle, with their rustic attendants; and the neighbourhood adorned with clusters of cheerful villages, and some more lonely retreats, forming together the most pleasant kind of rural landscape.

When viewed from the opposite shore, Cliefden, with its lofty woody hills, shelving banks, and other mixture of scenery, form a picture in a nobler style of composition; the Thames occupying a principal station near the fore-ground.

Cliefden House was sometime in the possession of Frederick, late Prince of Wales; and the Countess of Orkney intends it soon to be her future residence.

View of Haddow's Lodge, Lehigh, Eastward



This mansion contains tapestry hangings of the Duke of Marlborough's battles, finely executed by order of the Earl of Orkney, who served as an officer of superior rank in these glorious campaigns.

HEDSOR LODGE.

Adjoining Cliefden is Hedsor Lodge, the seat of Lord Boston; formerly belonging to Rowland Hynde, Esq. The house is an elegant modern building, loftily situated; the grounds are by nature formed into high sloping hills and deep vallies, with a variety of wood well distributed. The declivities of the hills are steep, particularly towards the west; and on the south near the Thames, is a chalky precipice, whence the ground rises boldly to the summit, on which the mansion conspicuously stands.

From hence the views are extensive; the eye ranges over a large tract, enriched by villages, seats, and a variety of other scenery; fertile meadows, through which the

river glides, occupy the space between, and the hills on the west gradually diminishing, vanish into the horizon.

From the lower grounds (particularly beyond the Thames) Hedsor is seen to advantage. Its elevated situation commands admiration ; and its bold inequalities give variety ; which, with other favourable traits collectively considered, conspire powerfully to arrest the attention of the traveller, conversant in composition of this kind.

From the steep sides of the hills below Hedsor, looking eastward, Sir George Young's house is seen in the valley. It is a handsome house, lately built ; its situation is low on the south shore, close to the Thames. The towering woods of Cliefden protect it on the north ; it is encompassed by fertile meadows, with some tufted woody scenery, on the east and south ; and is peculiarly adapted for a summer retirement.

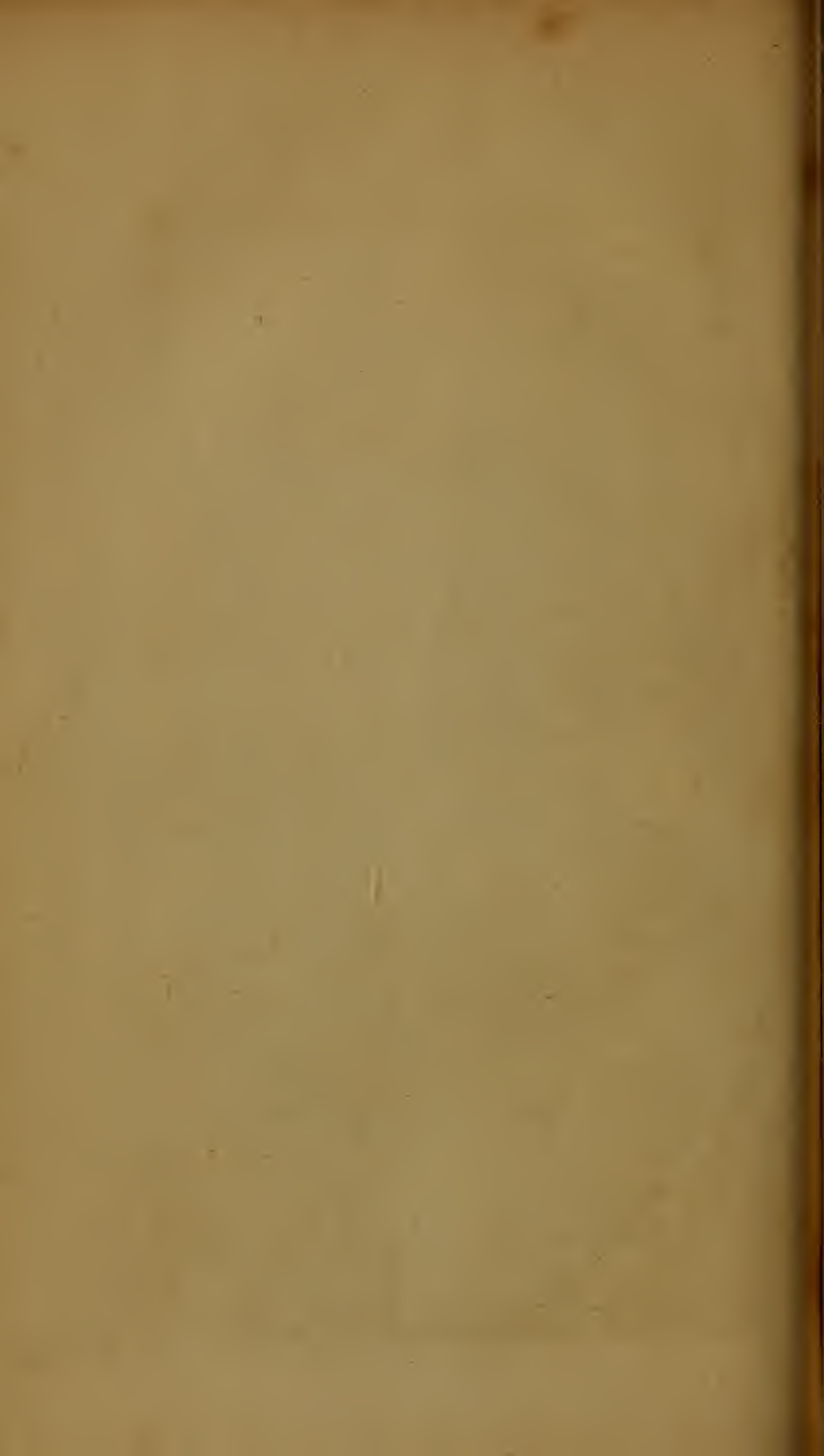
View of Montserrat from the Bay of St. Peter's







View of Hudson's Lodge taken from the river.



SECT. VII.

AT Maidenhead bridge, the traveller enters Berkshire.—The most probable conjecture, in regard to the name of this county, is that which derives it from the Saxon word *berroc*, signifying the wood of the box tree ; for in former times great quantities grew in it. A colony of the *Attrebates*, as mentioned by Cæsar in his Commentaries, who inhabited a part of Gaul, are supposed to give the name of *Attrebatii* to this people. They were a considerable part of the powerful kingdom of the West Saxons, who were rendered famous for the share they had in that signal victory obtained over the Danes at Englefield.

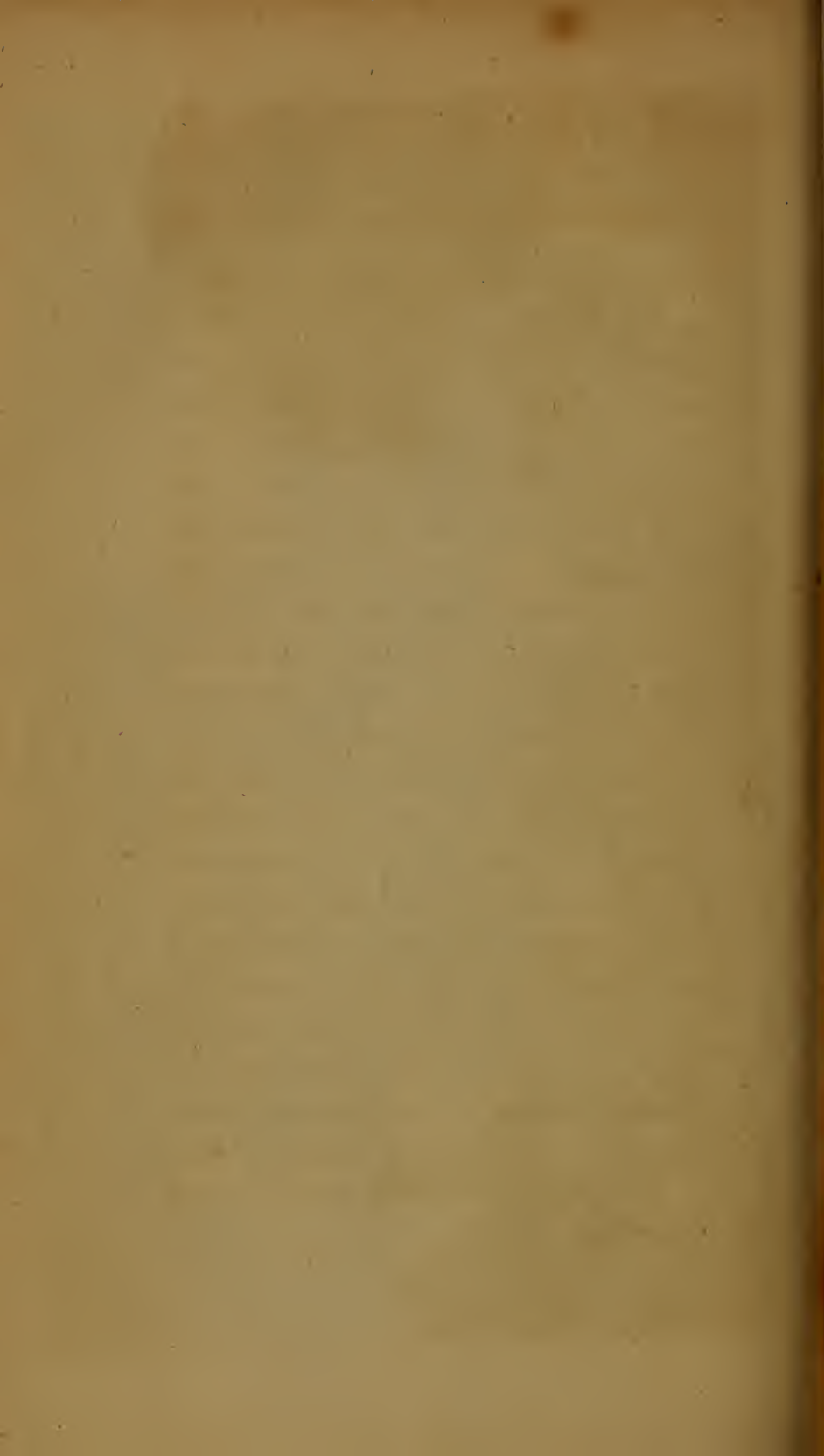
This county is about thirty-nine miles in

length ; twenty-nine broad ; and one hundred and twenty in circumference. It is bounded, on the north by the Thames, which divides it from Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire ; on the east by Middlesex and Surrey ; on the south by Hampshire ; and on the West by Wiltshire and Gloucestershire.

It contains four parliamentary boroughs ; twenty hundreds ; twelve market towns ; one hundred and forty parishes ; and six hundred and seventy-one villages : the whole lying in the province of Canterbury, and diocese of Salisbury.

Its rivers are the Thames, the Kennet, the Lodden, the Ocke, and the Lambourne Stream. The two former, washing the opposite sides of the county, add to its fertility, and contribute to its wealth. When united, they form a grand channel of communication, by which the various commodities of the counties they pass through, are conveyed to the metropolis, and to other parts.





The air of Berkshire is healthy ; and the country is pleasant, being diversified by a variety of woody hills ; the banks of its several rivers afford excellent and rich pasture. It produces in plenty, corn, cattle, and timber ; particularly oak, elm, and beech. Its manufactures are woollen and sail-cloth ; some of silk and cotton ; and great quantities of meal and malt.

Berkshire gives the title of Baron to a branch of the Howard family ; and sends two representatives to parliament.

Maidenhead bridge is built of stone, consisting of seven principal, and six smaller arches. The approach to it is spacious and grand ; produced by a noble curve outwards, towards each end. A broad pavement runs along each side, fenced by a handsome ballustrade ; its general proportions being good, and the design simple, it may be considered an elegant handsome structure. It was constructed after a design of the late Sir R. Taylor, about thirteen years ago.

From hence the beautiful scenery of Cliefden and its neighbourhood present a picturesque landscape, terminated on the west by the woody hills of Buckinghamshire. Looking down the river towards the east, the country is flat, but not unpleasant. Houses and villages are seen scattered among pleasant meadows; the scene is closed in the horizon by a very distant country; Windsor Castle and the royal forests, appearing on the left; but rather indistinctly.

At each end of Maidenhead bridge stands an excellent inn, where travellers are well accommodated; and parties often resort hither, for the amusement of fishing, and other recreations in the summer months.

Maidenhead (which Leland calls South Ailington, and Stow, Sudlington) is a town of some consequence, pleasantly situated on the declivity of a hill, on the Bath road. It is of great antiquity; having been constituted a borough in the reign of Edward III. by the name of Guild, or fraternity of the brothers and sisters of Maidenhead;



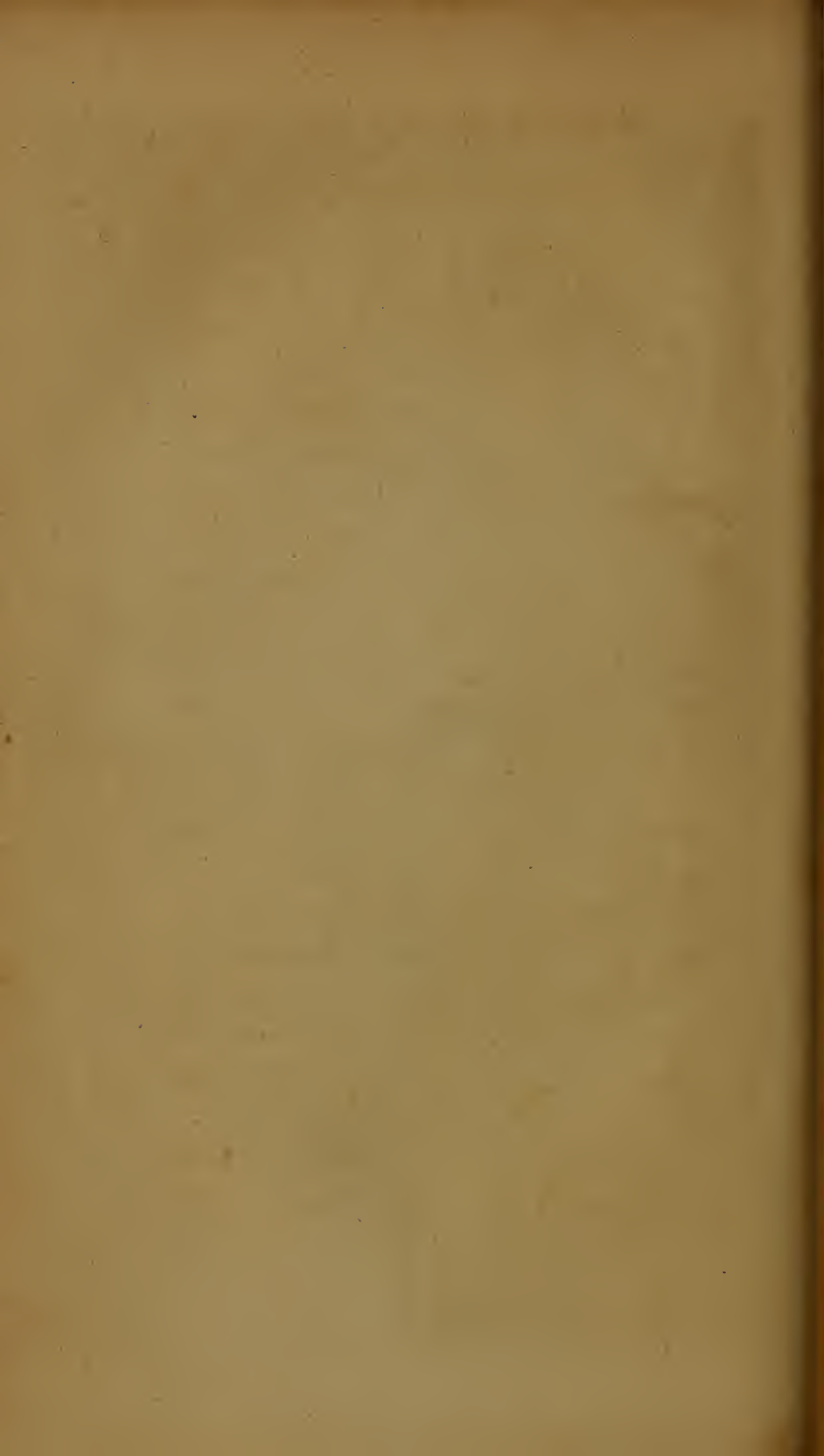
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W. H. Woodbury, 1870.



after the reformation, by that of Warden and Burgesses ; and it was incorporated by James II. under the denomination of High Steward, Mayor, and Aldermen.

The town stands in the parishes of Bray and Cookham, but has a chapel peculiar to the corporation ; the minister being chosen by the inhabitants, and not obliged to attend the visitation of the bishop. The mayor, his predecessor, and the steward, are justices of the peace ; and the former is also clerk of the market, coroner, and judge of the court, which he is obliged to hold once in every three weeks. The houses are tolerably built, and a handsome modern chapel stands near the entrance of the town ; the bridge belongs to the corporation, and must produce a considerable revenue.

Adjoining Maidenhead, on the south, is the seat of P. Powney, Esq. the house is ancient, a new park has lately been inclosed, but the grounds are not yet arranged.

From Maidenhead, a hollow way leads to the summit of a hill, whence, looking

northward, the beautiful woods of Taploe, Cliefden, and Hedsor Lodge, again present themselves ; embosomed in which these three elegant seats appear.

Beyond this, the country on each side consists of cultivated districts, woody hills and vallies. At the twenty-eight mile stone we enter the race ground, which is of great extent, adjoining Maidenhead Thicket. On the right, near the edge of the common, is a house, the residence of Charles Ambler, Esq. which stands pleasantly, and is screened by plantations. Towards the south, on the left, stand two handsome houses ; the larger possessed by Miss Lownds, and the smaller by Mr. Lee.

Here a road branches off to the west, which leads to Hall Place, the seat of Sir William Este, Bart. a little more than a mile distant. The house is a neat building, pleasantly situated in a small park, well furnished with wood, surrounded by woody hills, interspersed with cultivated grounds.

From some parts of the race ground, the

View from Maidenhead Bridge, looking Eastward.



eye ranges over a large tract of distant country, towards the east, in which some seats are to be seen ; those of —— Sayer, and John Grant, Esqrs. are the most conspicuous.

A rising ground beyond the heath, leads to a beautiful woodland country, pleasingly diversified by farms, cottages, and some elegant houses ; the road running along pleasant hills and vallies, for several miles ; and though enchanting to the sight, the land here is by no means so valuable or productive as in many other parts, the soil being sandy and poor ; narrow wastes tufted with furze, and other barren spots frequently appearing.

On the left, about two miles distant, is the village of Shottersbrook, where may be seen the remains of a small religious house, of the Benedictine order, dedicated to St. John the Baptist ; founded by Sir William Trussell, a Staffordshire gentleman ; now converted to a farm house. Here also the very learned Mr. Henry Dodwell, passed

the evening of his days, and he is buried in the church. This extraordinary man, it is recorded, travelled over most parts of Europe on foot, reading as he walked; and carried with him books fitted to his pockets.

Near this village is *Lawrence Waltham*; where, in a field, called Weycock, which signifies a high road, stood a considerable Roman fort; and there is still a spot called Castle-hill, where Roman coins are often turned up when the land is ploughed.

Near Shottersbrook is a seat belonging to Arthur Vansittart, Esq. It is a stately mansion; stands in a pleasant park, well wooded, and its grounds are peculiarly pleasing.

Beyond the thirty-one mile stone, on a woody hill to the right, the house of Mrs. Phillips is pleasantly situated. It is a handsome building, well sheltered from the north; commanding extensive views towards the east and south. Nearly adjoining, an elegant modern house with wings,

the residence of Mr. Ximenes, stands delightfully, in a pleasant woodland country. A ridge of high hills screens it on the north ; a pleasing variety of inequalities, tufted with woods, compose its grounds ; and it is built in an elevated situation, having open and extensive views towards the south and east.

Opposite, near the road, on a sloping lawn, stands a neat house, the seat of J. Lee Parrot, Esq.—A woody valley occupies the grounds in the east and south, and its plantations are agreeably arranged ; the whole forming a pleasant residence.

A little farther is Hare Hatch, a small scattered village, in which are several good houses ; in particular, that of Mr. Young on the right, and Mr. Girdler's, a handsome building upon a rising ground, towards the left.

At the thirty-two mile stone, we leave the woodland, and descend into an open cultivated country ;—about a mile hence, on a hill to the left, stands the village of Ruscombe ; close to which is an elegant

modern house, the residence of Sir James Eyre, Lord Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer. A little beyond this we arrive at the village of Twyford.

From Twyford a road leads to Wargrave, pleasantly situated on the Thames. This village is a mile and half distant from Twyford, and was in early times a market-town. Queen Emma gave it to the Bishop of Winchester; and in that see it remained till Dr. Poynt gave it to Edward VI. who granted it to Henry Nevill.—Queen Mary resumed the grant, and gave it to Dr. White, Poynt's successor; but Queen Elizabeth restored it to Henry Nevill, and it descended to his posterity, the Nevills of Billingsbear.

At Wargrave the Earl of Barrymore has a temporary residence; adjoining the house an elegant theatre has lately been erected, in which dramatic performances are often exhibited by his Lordship and other performers, for the amusement of their friends.

Near this, on an elevated situation, stands

a handsome modern house, the property of Mr. Hill, commanding pleasant views along the Thames ; towards Reading on the west, and Henley on the north.

Two miles beyond Wargrave, we approach the elegant seat of General Conway.

General View of Lake Huron looking Northward.



SECT. VIII.

PARK PLACE.

PARK PLACE, the seat of General Conway, was purchased of Lord Archibald Hamilton, by the late Frederick Prince of Wales; after whose death it was by his Majesty transferred to the present possessor.

This seat is situated near Henley upon Thames, and displays more characteristic boldness of composition than any on the banks of that river.—The grounds are high; formed into several grand projections, with deep vallies between. The woods are extensive; judiciously arranged; and the steep sides of the hills, with their chalky precipices, are overhung with a variety of woody scenery, extending to the margin of the river, which glides below.

The higher grounds are adorned by woods, and groups of stately trees, interspersed with many tufted clumps of beautiful evergreens. The house is pleasantly situated, on a dry hill; and though near three hundred feet above the level of the water, is so sheltered by its woods and plantations, as to feel no inconvenience from its great elevation.

The projecting lawns of these extensive grounds, are formed in a style corresponding with the grandeur of their other component parts; and become striking features in the landscape, from various points.

Near the house, to the east, is a large shrubbery in clumps, intermixed with flowers, from whence you pass over a small ornamented lawn, to an inclosed flower garden, elegantly laid out in the French taste; and not far from this, to a menagerie, formed in a peculiar style of beauty; well stocked with birds of various kinds, particularly pheasants, both English and foreign.

From hence, entering a wood on the

The Great Rock at Park House.



summit of the hill lying east, we pass through a subterraneous passage above eight hundred feet in length, which leads to a beautiful valley, planted on each side with tall cypress and other trees.

Here stands a large ruin, in the Grecian style of architecture, the only one I recollect to have seen in this manner; designed and executed in a taste far exceeding most attempts of the kind.—Descending this valley towards the Thames, we pass under a large arch curiously constructed; and built of natural stones of vast dimensions; brought at a considerable expence from various parts of the country.

This structure, from its singularity, becomes an interesting object, whenever it is seen; and is particularly picturesque when viewed from the water, or the opposite shore of the river.—The high road from Henley to Twyford passes through these grounds, and over the arch; and being totally excluded from the sight, by plantations and shrubberies, no inconvenience,

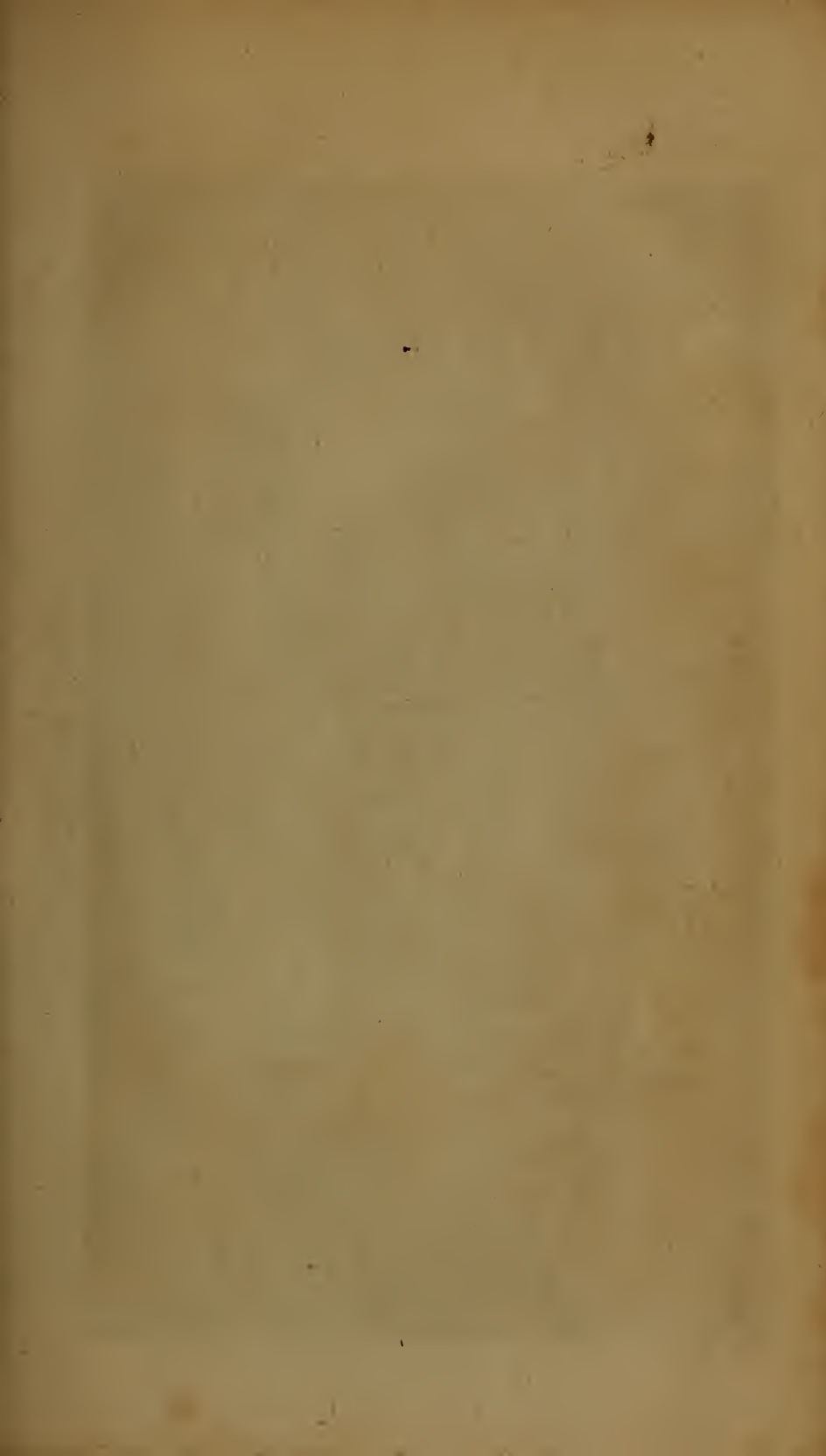
or unpleasant circumstance attends it: on the contrary, by the judicious management of the whole, the place has been considerably ornamented by it.

On a hill, contiguous to the arch, stands a cottage tufted high in wood; and commanding several pleasant views: the church of Henley appears through a glade to the north, where the woody hills of Oxfordshire form the back ground.—Towards the east, the meanders of the river are indistinctly caught, through the rich woody scenery which adorns the steep on which it stands; and on the west, the Thames glides in full stream, washing the skirts of the woods, to the whole extent of the grounds.

Opposite the east front of the cottage, in a low situation, is a chalk cavern of large dimensions; in the formation of which, use and ornament have been equally considered. From the banks of the river we approach it by a narrow pass, overhung with trees; in front, a perpendicular precipice of

The Cottage from the Chalk Cavern at Buck, Devon







The Tomb at Park Place.

great height presents itself; on the left is seen the elegant cottage, and on the right the gloomy and solemn entrance of the cavern.

Proceeding southward, we enter a solitary willow-walk on the river bank; here, in an angle close to the Thames, is an elegant tomb of white marble, in the Roman style, perfectly characteristic, and well suited to the solemnity of the lonely and sequestered spot in which it stands.

Whilst we contemplate these scenes, and reflect upon the amiable character of the right honourable possessor, the following detached beautiful lines of a celebrated poet, come to our recollection.

“ How blest is he who crowns, in shades like these,

“ A youth of labour with an age of ease;—

“ And all his prospects bright’ning to the last,

“ His heaven commences ere the world is past!”

GOLDSMITH.

Advancing farther, and turning towards the right, the Thames appears through a beautiful arch, constructed of natural stones,

of rude forms ; the upper part of which is composed of one entire piece. The variety of the scenery which decorates the rugged sides of this romantic arch ; the site in which it is so judiciously placed, with its other accompaniments, command our admiration.

Along the high grounds on the north, towards Henley, on two different prominences, runs a noble terrace of great length ; from whence a complete bird's-eye view of the river, the town, and the surrounding country is obtained. A little beyond this, still farther northward, is a pleasant valley planted with lavender, and separated by a line of shrubs from a steep and rugged ravine, (through which the high road formerly passed) exhibiting a variety of rude and pleasing scenery.—Towards the bottom stands a small stone house, much admired for its elegant simplicity, and justness of proportion ; the whole forming a landscape very different from any before described.

DESCRIPTION OF A DRUID TEMPLE.

On the summit of a hill, near the southern quarter of the ornamented grounds, stands a Druid temple, of great and undoubted antiquity, which was presented by the inhabitants of the Island of Jersey to General Conway, their governor ; accompanied by an elegant inscription ; a copy of which follows.

Cet ancien Temple des Druides,
 decouvert le 12^me Août, 1785,
 sur la montagne de St. Helier,
 dans l'Isle de Jersey ;
 a été présenté par les habitans
 à son Excellence le General Conway,
 leur Gouverneur.

Pour des siècles caché, aux regards des mortels,
 Cet ancien monument, ces pierres, ces autels,
 Où le sang des humains offert en sacrifice,
 Ruissela, pour des Dieux qu'enfantait le caprice.
 Ce monument, sans prix par son antiquité,
 Temoignera pour nous à la postérité,
 Que dans tous les dangers Cesarée eut un père,
 Attentif, et vaillant, genereux, et prospere :
 Et redira, Conway, aux siècles àvenir,
 Qu'en vertu du respect dû à ce souvenir,
 Elle te fit ce don, acquis à ta vaillance,
 Comme un juste tribut de sa reconnoissance.

This altar, or temple, was a few years ago discovered on the summit of a high hill, near the town of St. Helier, in the Island of Jersey.—It is sixty feet in circumference ; composed of forty-five large stones, measuring in general about seven feet in height, from four to six in breadth, one to three in thickness ; and contains six perfect lodges, or cells. The supposed entrance, or passage, faces the east, and measures fifteen feet in length, above four feet in breadth, in height about four feet ; and the covering of rude stones, from eighteen inches to two feet thick.

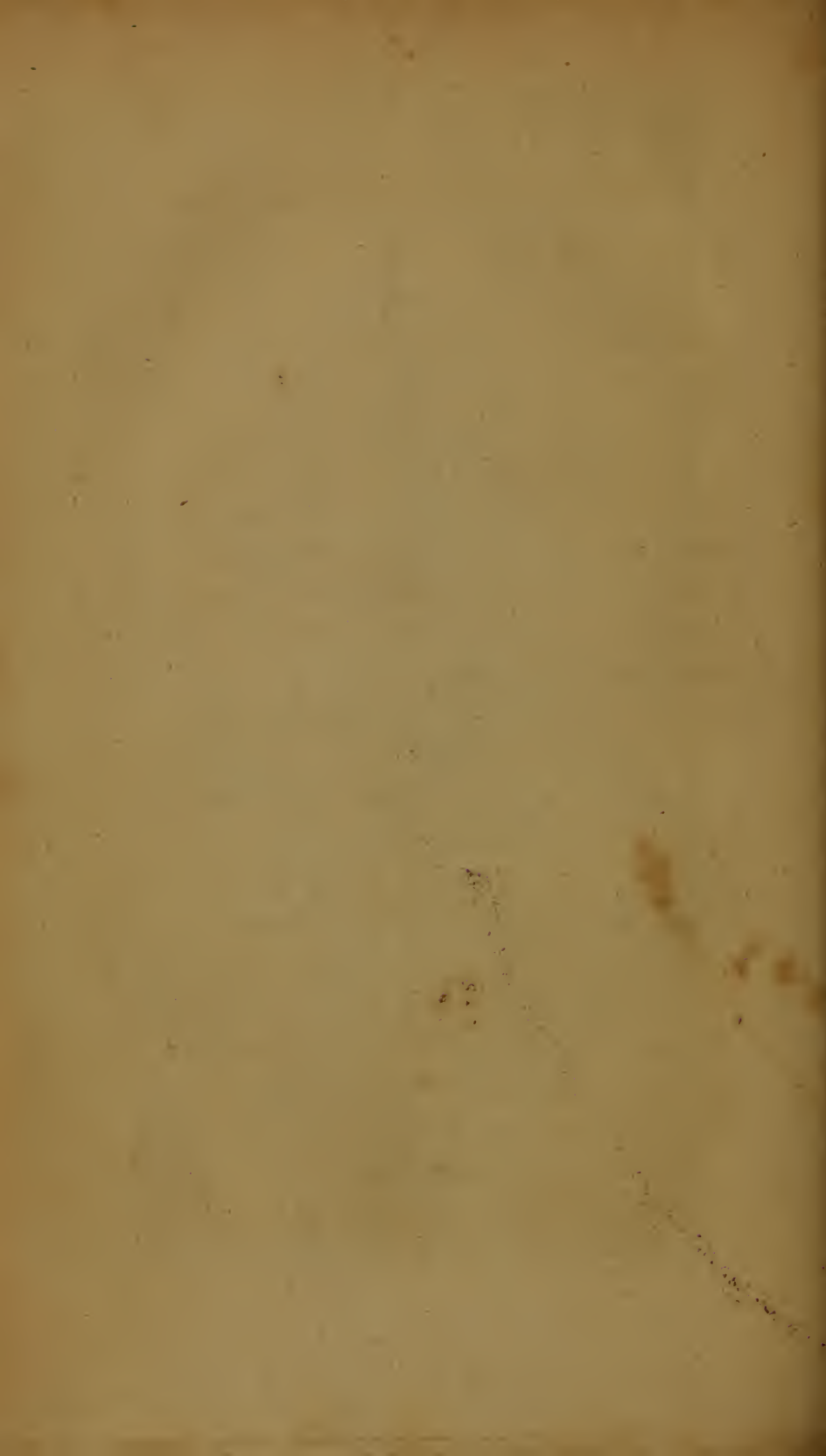
Two medals were found in the temple ; one of the Emperor Claudius, and the other so worn by time, as to render it unintelligible.

By the very imperfect accounts we have of the history and antiquities of that island, there is reason to think it has been particularly the seat of the Druids, and of their worship.

Mr. Poindextre, who wrote some tracts



The Druid Temple at Park Place, looking Westward.



on the affairs of Jersey, and died in the year 1691, says there were existing in that small island, no less than fifty Druid temples, or altars in his time ; of which the greater part were demolished when Falle published his history of that island, early in the present century.—He mentions a single altar of large dimensions, then standing on the same hill of St. Helier, the top stone of which was fourteen feet long, seven and a half broad, and three in thickness ; and near it a circle of other stones, of which there remained but one when he wrote.

From the above account it is plain, this complete structure was not known at that time, though there was another large altar or temple, and another circle of stones, seen on the same hill.—The present temple remained entirely covered with earth until the summer of 1785, having the appearance of a large barrow or tumulus. It then happened that the colonel of the St. Helier militia, wanting to level the ground for the exercise of his corps, the workmen soon

struck on the stones, and the temple was discovered.

There is no trace of the time when it was covered up ; not improbably in that of the Romans, by the Druids themselves, to preserve it, as their most sacred temple, from the violence and profanation of that people, who frequently persecuted them ; and who certainly had possession of the island, as appears from its Latin name *Cæsarea*, and from several other names, and some small vestiges remaining ; as well as from the coins often found in different parts of the island.

OXFORDSHIRE.

By Henley bridge we pass into Oxfordshire. This county is bounded on the east by Buckinghamshire ; on the west by Gloucestershire ; on the north by Northamptonshire and Warwickshire ; and on the south by Berkshire.—It is about forty-two miles in length, twenty-six in breadth, and one

hundred and thirteen in circumference. It contains one city, fifteen market-towns, two hundred and eighty parishes, and fourteen hundreds.

The air of Oxfordshire is esteemed healthy; the soil is naturally dry, and free from fens and stagnant waters, though plentifully supplied by a variety of running streams.—The productions of this county are cattle, fruit, free-stone, and several sorts of earth used in medicine, dying, and scouring; but as it does not abound in wood, fuel is consequently dear.

The principal rivers are the Thames or Isis, the Evenlode, the Windrush, the Tame, and the Charwell.—This county lies in the province of Canterbury, and diocess of Oxford, and sends two representatives to parliament.

HENLEY UPON THAMES.

Henley is a considerable town, pleasantly situated on the banks of the Thames,

in the bottom of a valley surrounded by woody hills.—Its corporation consists of a warden, burgesses, and other officers.—The town is chiefly composed of one street; a mixture of ancient and modern houses. The church is a stately building, standing conspicuously, near the end of the bridge; and has lately been repaired.

From hence a considerable trade in malt, meal, and corn, is carried on by means of the Thames, to various parts of the country, and to the metropolis.

Dr. Plot takes Henley to be the most ancient town in the county, and supposes it might have been the capital of the *An-calites*.—Dr. Gale makes it the *Calleva*, or *Galleva Attrebatum* of Antoninus, and the *Caleba* of Ravannas; on account of the Roman road running directly from Spine hither, and the Roman coins found hereabout.—He supposes the *Attrebates* of Ptolemy and Antoninus were the same with the *An-calte* of Cæsar, and the situation assigned them by Camden to be right.

Henley Bridge.



Here is a free-school founded by James I. and an alms-house by Longland Bishop of Lincoln.

Henley bridge is built of a beautiful white stone ; consists of five arches ; and for justness of proportion, agreement of parts, and the ease of its general lines, surpasses any that adorns the Thames. Its arches are neither elliptical or semicircular ; but are described from three centers, forming a compound curve very pleasing to the eye.

A neat pavement runs along each side, guarded by a low balustrade ; and both fronts are enriched by pilasters, supported on semicircular projections of the piers.—The heads of the Tame and the Isis, which adorn the center arch, are executed by the Hon. Mrs. Damer ; whose general knowledge of science, and excellence in the difficult art of sculpture, are so universally acknowledged, as to render it unnecessary here to enlarge on them.

The country surrounding Henley is beautifully diversified by lofty woody hills, and

other scenery, the lower grounds declining to the Thames. Looking towards the north, the woods and plantations on the grounds of Mr. Freeman adorn the western shore of the river ; on the east, a high woody ridge stretches towards the north ; the Thames gently gliding occupies the center ; and the distance is terminated by the Oxfordshire hills.

The steep face of Henley hill appears on the east ; through the chalky sides of which, a new road has been lately cut :—a most noble and laudable work ; it contributes equally to the advantage of the country, and to the pleasure and safety of the traveller.

At the foot of this hill stands some houses and cottages intermixed with woody scenery ; and on the south, Park Place, with all its variety of nobler decoration, is seen.

At Henley bridge we repass the Thames ; and again join the high road at Twyford.

Twyford is a small town, situated near the conflux of the Thames and the Lod-

don ; the latter running at the west end of it in several separate channels, over each of which is a small bridge.

From hence towards the north the eye ranges over a large district of well cultivated country, diversified by farms, woody hills, and some villages. Beyond Twyford the country, on both sides of the road, is occupied by rich meadows, watered by several streams from the Loddon ; which empties itself into the Thames a little below the town, on the north.

Beyond this the road still continues on a level for some distance ; then ascending, runs on an unequal ridge, through an inclosed woody country, to the thirty-seven mile stone : it then descends towards the town of Reading, the spires of which present themselves to view in the west ; and Caversham Park is seen distinctly on the right beyond the Thames.

CAVERSHAM PARK.

This seat stands nobly, on an elevated situation, about two miles from Reading, upon the north side of the Thames, near the road from that town to Henley. The house is a stately regular mansion, situated in a fine park, well sheltered by woods on the north.

The grounds are much varied and unequal; they were lately adorned by a variety of majestic and venerable trees; many of which it is much to be regretted are no longer to be seen.

The use of the axe, at all times, ought to be sparingly and with the utmost caution applied: it ought ever to be remembered, that more can be destroyed by this fatal instrument, in one day, than can be restored by the utmost art of man in a succeeding century.

This place in early times was the residence of the Marshalls, Earls of Pembroke. It was likewise in the possession of the Lord

Knowles in the time of James I. and here Anne of Denmark, queen to that monarch, was splendidly entertained in her journey to Bath, in the year 1613.

Sir Jacob Astley of Melton Constable, Norfolk, was, in recompence for his services to Charles I. created Lord Astley of Reading ; which title became extinct at the death of his grandson Jacob. William Cadogan, who had signalized himself under the Duke of Marlborough, and in suppressing the rebellion in 1715, was created Lord Cadogan, Baron of Reading, in 1716 ; and two years afterwards, Baron Oakley, Viscount Caversham, and Earl Cadogan. All these titles expired with this nobleman ; except that of Baron Oakley, which devolved to his brother Charles, who died in 1776, and was succeeded by his son Charles Sloane, the present Lord Cadogan.

Caversham House was built, by the Earl of Cadogan, in the reign of George I.—By the late Lord it was much reduced ; and

has been altered by Mr. Marsac, the present proprietor.

About two miles from Reading, and one from the Bath road, on the south shore of the river, the village of Sunning is pleasantly situated.

Here formerly stood a monastery and park, at the quarter of the village next to Reading. And Leland says, at the end of the church there stood a chapel, formerly much resorted to in pilgrimage for the cure of madness; and that nine bishops sat at Sunning, till Hermanus, the last of them, translated the see to Sarum; whose bishops are lords, and had a manor house here before the conquest.

About two miles before we arrive at Reading, a road on the left leads to White Knights; lately the seat of Sir Henry Inglefield, Bart. but now of Mr. Neville.—The house is a stately building, situated in a pleasant park, well supplied with wood. Opposite the north front of the mansion is

a handsome piece of water, of an irregular easy form ; the lawns which compose the banks of the lake are well laid out, and are adorned by groups of stately trees, and other woody scenery.

White Knights was one of the first examples of the *Ferme Ornée*;—was remarkable for the neatness and great order in which the grounds were kept ; and is situated in a rich well cultivated country.

A little beyond this on the left, close to the road, stands Early Court, the seat of J. Bagnal, Esq. It is a neat white mansion, situated at the top of a sloping lawn, which extends to the road. The grounds are pleasingly unequal, and well clothed with wood of various kinds.—A little more than a mile beyond this, we arrive at the town of Reading.

Before we pass this town, it may be necessary to mention, that a spacious new road was, by permission, made from Windsor to Reading, being eighteen miles ; passing over Cranbourne Chace, through Wind-

sor forest ; by the pleasant villages of Winkfield, Warfield, and Binfield.

From the number of elegant houses and seats to be seen from this road, with the rich and beautiful scenery of the noble forests through which it passes, it may be justly considered one of the most delightful rides, of that extent, in any country.

White Knight.





View of Reading looking Southward.

SECT. IX.

READING is a very large and populous town, thirty-nine miles from the metropolis; situated upon an easy declivity, on the southern shore of the Thames. The streets are spacious and well paved; the buildings in general are good, and some elegant houses adorn the different quarters of it. The river Kennet runs through the town in two separate streams, and falls into the Thames about a mile below it.—The surrounding country is finely diversified by gentlemen's seats, woody hills, and cultivated land; and the Thames gliding through beautiful meadows, encompasses the northern part of the town.

Reading is the county town; is governed

by a mayor, twelve aldermen, twelve burgesses and other officers, and sends two representatives to parliament. This town claims great antiquity, was of note before the Danish irruptions, and is said to have been a borough soon after the conquest.— Here are three parish churches, St. Mary, St. Giles, and St. Lawrence ; the former of which is the most ancient.

It does not appear from any traces now to be found, that Reading was surrounded by a wall, though it had a castle of considerable note, the exact situation of which is not known. It is probable that the abbey stood on its site ; and part of it was built out of its ruins. It is said to have been in the possession of the Danes, who made a ditch between the Thames and the Kennet ; and that they retreated thither after they had been routed by the Saxon King Ethelwolf. In 827, the Danes surrendered the town to the Saxons, by whom it was plundered ; a calamity which it again experienced about 1006.

A magnificent abbey was founded here by Henry I. about the year 1124, which stood between the two rivers before mentioned. It was endowed with great privileges, enjoying the patronage of all the churches and chapels, together with all pleas and suits of courts within the borough of Reading, with many other ample immunities. The bodies of Henry I. his Queen, and (as some say) of his daughter Maud, the Empress, were buried here.

This venerable and stately edifice was long the greatest ornament of the town ; parliaments were held in the chamber of the refectory within the abbey ; and in the reign of Henry VI. some laws were enacted in it. Dr. Stukeley mentions his having seen the shell of a room, eighty-four feet by forty-six, having three narrow windows on the east, and three doors and windows to the west ; which he supposes to have been the chapel. The gate-house is still standing, and is a picturesque ruin ; the other remains are massy blocks of flint walls,

eight feet thick, and seem to have been cased with stone.

At its dissolution this superb building was most shamefully abused, part of it having been converted into stables, and other similar uses; and by the fanatic and mistaken zeal of that period, the ashes of its illustrious founder were, through contempt, scattered in the air.

Reading stood a siege in the reign of Charles I. and made a gallant defence against the Parliament army, consisting of sixteen thousand foot, and three thousand horse, commanded by the Earl of Essex.—The garrison made an honourable capitulation; afterwards joined the King's army in the neighbourhood, and marched with it to Oxford.

This town was formerly renowned for its extensive manufactories in woollen cloth, but has little of that commerce remaining. Its chief trade now consists of malt, meal, corn, timber, and sail cloth.—Manufactories of silk and lawns have lately been estab-



Abbey Gate at Reading.

lished, and from the encouragement they have already received, promise a source of wealth to the town.

Reading has to boast of having given birth to two distinguished characters; Lord Chief Justice Holt, and the pious Archbishop Laud.—The latter was the son of a wealthy clothier in the town; founded an hospital in it, and liberally endowed it.

On the right of the town, a bridge extending across the Thames to the village of Caversham, leads to the Henley road; which runs along the north side of the beautiful vale through which the Thames glides, affording a variety of rural landscape, intermixed with farms, villages, and seats.

On Catsgrove hill, near Reading, a stratum or bed of oyster shells was discovered, of five or six acres in extent.—It is particularly mentioned by John Lowthorp, M. A. in his second volume of the *Abridgement of the Philosophical Transactions*, page 427, 428, communicated to the Royal Society by Dr. James Brewer; and is wor-

thy the notice of the curious in natural history.

From a rising ground, at the western extremity of Reading, the road runs along a ridge for two miles, through a well cultivated country, with extensive prospects towards the south. Here, upon a hill on the north, stands a neat house, the residence of Edward Bower, Esq. embosomed in wood, and by its elevated situation commands charming views ; having the town of Reading on the east, a large tract of distant country on the south, and encompassed by woody hills and cultivated grounds on the north and west.

On the opposite side of the road, in a wood, is an ancient house, lately the residence of Mr. Belgrave. Its situation is low, but being well screened by woods from every quarter, is rendered a comfortable retreat.

Hence the road winds through a beautiful woodland country, composed of easy hills and sloping vallies. Near the forty-

two mile stone, on the right, is the seat of J. Belgrave, Esq.—It is a handsome regular structure, with wings, situated in a pleasant park, well supplied with wood. The grounds are composed of a variety of shelving lawns well formed; and rendered agreeable by groups and clumps of trees, judiciously scattered on them. The house is well screened on the north, by thick woods; and a small common of rural appearance, through which the road passes, lies on the south.

Beyond this is a continuation of the same kind of woody country, highly enriched by cultivation; and through the scenery on the left, glances of the Kennet, which glides in a beautiful valley on the south, are obtained: the road now descends, and we approach Theal.

Theal is a neat village; on the south it is skirted by fertile meadows, watered by the Kennet, beyond which, a chain of woody hills close the view in the horizon; on the north, the country becomes more

level, and is occupied by inclosures, farms, and cottages, interspersed with wood.

ENGLEFIELD HOUSE.

About a mile to the northwest of Theal is Englefield House, the seat of Richard Benyon, Esq. Englefield originally gave name to a very ancient family, who long resided at it. This seat was built in a magnificent manner by one of the Paulets, Marquises of Winchester; but was reduced and modernized by the late proprietor, Paulet Wright, Esq. who was lineally descended from that noble family.

It is at this time a stately mansion, well situated in the east quarter of the park, near the village.

A range of woods, on a rising ground, extends along the north; from the south the grounds decline towards the center, which is occupied by a piece of water, of an irregular serpentine form; the banks

are rendered pleasant by a variety of woody scenery, and the park is adorned by many venerable and stately trees. The second and last Marquis of Winchester, who defended Basing House, is buried in the church at Englefield.

In the meads, on the north side of the Kennet, is a square entrenchment, probably thrown up when Earl Ethelwolf fought and routed the Danes here in the year 871.

Two miles north of Englefield is the village of Bradfield, where a monastery was founded by King Ina, before the year 699. All that now remain are vestiges of the walls, and part of a gate leading to the church, built of flint ; and the Rector takes tythes of abbey lands, which are free elsewhere.

From the high grounds above this village, to the south, is an extensive and distant view of the Hampshire and Berkshire hills. A steep descent down a chalky cliff opens to a valley, composed of woody and cultivated hills, through which the Thames

glides. In the bottom lies the village of Pangbourn, and on the upper grounds stands Baselden; from the hill above which is the most extensive view in this country,—in clear weather the spires of Oxford, twenty-five miles distant, are discernible.

Near this is Baselden Park, formerly the seat of the Lord Viscount Fane; now of Sir F. Sykes, Bart. The park is large, and inclosed by a wall of flint stones.

Four miles south-by-west of Englefield is Padworth. This seat was formerly in possession of the Forsters; lately of Christopher Griffith, Esq. and is now the property and residence of Mrs. Griffith. It is a noble mansion, delightfully situated on the north side of the vale, through which the Kennet runs. Standing on elevated ground, it commands prospects towards Woolhampton, Theal, and Caversham, on the opposite side; and extensive views along the river towards Newbury on the west, and Reading on the east. The house is well sheltered by wood, and the grounds have

an easy slope to the meadows in the valley. Near this place, the Earl of Essex passed the Kennet to attack King Charles I. at Newbury.

Near Padworth, on the east, stands Ufton Court, the seat of Mr. Perkins, delightfully situated.

West of Padworth, is the village of Aldermanston, near which stands an ancient mansion, formerly the seat of Sir Humphry Forster ; whose ancestor was sheriff of Berkshire in 1475. It came by marriage to William, the third Lord Stawell, and devolved to his posterity.

About three miles eastward from Aldermanston, stood Silchester, a Roman city of great note ; and according to some of our antiquarians, the Vindonium of that people, built by Constantine the Great, in the year 337. The space this ancient town occupied is about eighty acres, now divided into rich cultivated fields ; and when Stukeley wrote, there remained but one solitary house, with the church. The vestiges of

the walls and the gates of the town are still to be seen, and may be considered as the most perfect remains of Roman grandeur in this island.

On the north-east side, are still the traces of an amphitheatre; now converted into the ignoble use of a straw-yard and watering-pond for cattle.

Many were the Roman ways that centered near this place, few of which are now remaining. The chief of these run from the south gate of the town, to the north gate of Winchester:—another from the south gate by Andover, to the camps at Eastbury and Quarley; crossing the river at Port-town, in a direct line to the east gate of Old Sarum. In the neighbourhood are many tumuli, and the traces of some camps; particularly one at a place called the Soak, about a mile and a half from Silchester.

Not far from hence lies Mortimer Heath, a black dreary tract of barren soil, across which ran a Roman way to Silchester; but is not now traceable so far. There are se-

veral barrows on its north side, and many considerable ones in its neighbourhood.

Returning from Silchester, and repassing the Kennet, we proceed from Theal over a flat, skirted by pleasant meadows on the south. Beyond this, the country on the right assumes a bolder appearance ; a chain of hills finely tufted with wood present themselves ; gradually increasing as we approach Woolhampton.

Woolhampton is a neat village, composed of good houses, pleasantly situated, beneath the south side of the ridge of hills, which forms the north side of the vale that leads to Newbury.

At the end of the village we ascend by a road to the seat of Mrs. Crew, standing on an elevated situation, about half a mile on the right.

The house is a good mansion, well screened by woods. From many parts of the grounds belonging to this seat, and from the high hill above the village, a great

variety of pleasing rural scenery is presented to view.

The sides of the hills are composed of steep and bold irregularities, shelving into deep and solemn vallies; beautifully adorned by a variety of woody scenery, intermixed with farms and cottages; and varied by extensive prospects towards the south and east.

Beyond Woolhampton, a large tract of beautiful meadow land occupies the valley on the left; and the same chain of woody hills, constantly changing their features, continues on the right. Advancing farther, the road ascends, and is more inclosed as we approach Thatcham.

Before we enter Thatcham, Dunsted Park, the seat of Sir A. Crofts, appears on the right. The house is a stately regular mansion, well situated on the south side of a woody ridge, which screens it on the north.

The grounds are pleasingly varied, and

well furnished with wood ; commanding views of the town, the opposite side of the valley ; and extensive prospects towards the east.

Thatcham is a small neat town, chiefly composed of one street ; having some good houses, and a small church. It was formerly a manor of the Winchcombs, from whom it passed by marriage to Henry Viscount Bolingbroke ; now in the possession of Sir A. Crofts.

Opposite to this, on the south side of the valley, the seat of Mr. Mount stands conspicuously ; the house is a handsome building, and its grounds are well adorned with wood.

From Thatcham the road runs along unequal ground, till within two miles of Newbury ; it then becomes more level, and inclosed, and the country, on both sides of the river, is composed of woody hills, interspersed with farms, declining towards the vale.

Near Newbury, in a retired situation on the right, is Shaw, the seat of Sir Joseph Andrews, formerly in the possession of the Dolemans. This is a very ancient mansion, much inclosed in wood; and is rendered of note for having been the place in which Sir George Lisle was posted at the second battle of Newbury, in 1644.

View of Newbury looking Northward.



SECT. X.

NEWBURY.

NEWBURY is a large and populous town, fifty-six miles from the metropolis, situated in a fertile plain, watered by the Kennet ;—it rose out of the ruins of Speen, and part of it still goes under the denomination of Spinham Land.

The streets are spacious and well paved : it contains many good houses, a large church ; and the market-house, over which is the guildhall, is a noble building. It is in the hundred of Faircross ; a vicarage in the gift of the crown, and is governed by a mayor, high steward, and burgesses : but sends no representatives to parliament.

Newbury was once noted for its extensive manufactories in woollen cloth ; little of

which now remain, this commerce having been carried to the more western parts of the kingdom. The loss is in some measure supplied, by the Kennet having been made navigable to the town ; by means of which a considerable trade is carried on to the eastern part of the kingdom.

The surrounding country is diversified by woody hills, interspersed with farms, cottages, and some handsome houses ; the valley, which is watered by the Kennet, affording luxuriant pasture for numerous herds of cattle constantly seen grazing in it.

Newbury is remarkable for having been the scene of action in two succeeding years, between King Charles I. and the Parliament army ; his Majesty commanding at both in person : the former was fought at the Barrows, on the Wash, two miles south-east of the town.

Before the battle, the royal army was in good condition in the town, well supplied with provisions, and having several garrisons in the neighbourhood, could be



The Bridge at Sudbury.

at no loss for succour. On the other hand, the Rebel troops, from the time they had been attacked, the preceding day, by Prince Rupert, stood on their arms in the field, without any supply of provisions, or refreshment whatever ; which gave the King's army an evident advantage over them. Sensible of this, on the preceding evening his Majesty came to the resolution, not to hazard a battle, unless on such grounds as should give an assurance of victory.

On the morn of the eighteenth of September, 1643, the Earl of Essex with excellent conduct drew up his army in order of battle, on Bigg's-hill, less than a mile from the town ; and posted his men in all quarters to the best advantage. By the precipitate courage of some young officers, who had commands in the royal army, and who too often unhappily undervalued the courage of the enemy, strong parties became so far engaged, that the King, contrary to his former resolution, was compelled to put the whole to the hazard of a battle.

It was disputed on both sides with equal intrepidity, and with various success ; and night at length parting them, each had time to revolve the oversights of the day.

The Rebels finding themselves in no worse situation than they had reason to expect ; and being under the absolute necessity of gaining some place where they might rest, and be supplied with provisions, they early in the morning put themselves in the order of marching. The King's army, more cautious than on the preceding day, chose rather to take advantage of the enemy's motion, than to charge them again upon the former ground.

The Earl of Essex finding his way open, marched towards Reading. Prince Rupert observing this, suffered him without interruption to pass, till his whole army was entered into the narrow lanes ; then, with a strong party of horse, and one thousand musqueteers, followed the rear with so good effect, that they were thrown into great

disorder, having many killed and taken prisoners.

After this disaster, the Earl with the greatest part of his army, and all his cannon, got safe to Reading ; and after a few nights spent there in refreshing the troops, he moved in a slow and orderly march to London, leaving Reading to the King's forces, which was presently possessed by Sir Jacob Astley, and made a garrison for his Majesty.

On the King's side in this battle fell those distinguished characters, the Earl of Sunderland, Earl of Carnarvon, and the Lord Viscount Falkland ; an irreparable loss to his Majesty in his future operations.

SECOND BATTLE AT NEWBURY.

In the succeeding year, another battle was fought at Newbury. The King with his army was quartered in the town, having strong posts at Shaw, Speen, and on other

advantageous grounds ; and being very inferior in numbers, resolved to act upon the defensive.

On Sunday morning, the twenty-seventh of October 1644, by break of day, a part of the Earl of Manchester's army, came down the hill and passed the river by Shaw ; and undiscovered forced that guard, which should have kept the pass near the house ; but were repulsed by Sir Bernard Astley, who was entrenched near it, with great loss.

The Rebel army having almost encompassed that of the King, constant fighting continued, though with much more loss to them than to him ; till about three in the afternoon, Waller with his own, and the forces which had been under the Earl of Essex, fell upon the quarter at Speen, and passed the river ; he then marched with great bodies of foot, winged with horse, towards the heath ; from whence the horse stationed there, being overpowered, were obliged to retire.

By these means the enemy possessed themselves of the ordnance, which had been placed there, and of the village of Speen. Several other desperate assaults were made by the enemy on Shaw, and other posts, but were repulsed with great slaughter.—Skirmishes with various success continued the whole day, and night coming on, ended the fight; a seasonable relief to both parties.

The King finding himself destitute of part of his artillery, accompanied by the Prince, those lords who had been with him all the day, and his regiment of guards, retired under the cannon of Donnington Castle. Perceiving the great superiority of numbers against him; and sensible of the danger of being surrounded by the enemy, if he remained in this situation, he ordered all the carriages and great ordnance to be drawn to the same place, where the rest of the army joined him; and hearing that Prince Rupert was arrived at Bath, his Majesty with the Prince of Wales made haste

thither, and finding Prince Rupert, proceeded with expedition to Oxford.

After this the King's army was not in so bad a condition as was conceived ; the troops posted in the field near Speen, kept their ground resolutely, and though it was a fair moon-light night, the enemy, who were very near, and much superior in numbers, thought not fit to disturb them.

That party of the enemy which had been so roughly handled at Shaw, having been reinforced by a strong body of horse, resolved once more to make an attempt on that post, but were again repulsed with loss.

This was the last action between the armies ; for about ten at night, all the horse, foot, and artillery, drew forth their several guards to the heath above Donnington Castle, in which they left most of their wounded, with all their ordnance, ammunition, and carriages. Prince Maurice then marched in good order to Wallingford, committing the rear to Sir Humphrey Ben-

(View in High View Park, looking Northward.)





net ; who, with his brigade of horse, marched behind, and received not the least interruption from the enemy.

Many questioned which party had the advantage of the day ; and neither was satisfied with its success : but there can be no doubt that there were many more killed of the Rebels than of the King's army.

HIGH CLERE PARK.

On the south, about five miles from Newbury, is High Clere, the seat of Lord Portchester. The park is extensive, and well furnished with wood of various kinds, kept in perfect order.—It is partly divided by a piece of water of serpentine forms, which runs along a vale in a south and north direction ; over which are two bridges ; and its banks are decorated by well adapted woody scenery. At the northern extremity, the water expands, assuming the appearance of a lake.

From a noble lawn not far from the en-

trance to the park, a delightful landscape presents itself.—A hill finely hung with wood, sloping to the lake, forms a screen on the right : on the left, stately groups of trees stand on the foreground, which is composed of a variety of shelving banks ; the water, finely broken by tufted wood, occupies the center, and a rich country retiring from the woody banks of the lake, closes the distance in the horizon.

The house stands well in the south-west quarter of the park, near which a very high hill rises boldly on the south, giving a characteristic appearance to the place ; and it becomes a distinguished object, as well as a conspicuous landmark, from many parts of the surrounding country.

High Clere Park stands in Hampshire ; and for extent, boldness of feature, softened by a mixture of easy swelling lawns, shelving into pleasant vallies, diversified by wood and water, claims the admiration of the traveller, and may be considered as one of the most elegant seats in this country.

From Newbury we proceed to Speen, the ancient Roman *Spinæ*, mentioned by Antoninus; formerly of renown, now reduced to an unconnected village. It is situated on the Kennet, a little more than a mile west of Newbury, and in the Bath road; is in the hundred of Faircross, and deanery of Newbury; contains some good houses, and a small church.

It was the opinion of Dr. Stukeley, that the *Ikening Street*, coming from the Thames at Goring, and another Roman way, running hence through this place to Hungerford, crossed the river Kennet on the north part of Newbury.—Mr. Willis of Andover, and some other of our antiquarians, think differently; and suppose, that the Roman road in Hampshire, called *Chute Casway*, crossed the Kennet east of Marlborough; divided into a Vicinal way, from Bradbury camp, near Wanborough, and ran from thence to White Horse Hill, by Wantage and Goring to Royston. It has been traced from Marlborough by

Escourt, to the north gate of Winchester, after having crossed the Portway at Easton Town farm, not far from Andover.

DONNINGTON GROVE.

Opposite Speen, in a valley on the right, in view from the road, is Donnington Grove, the seat of William Brummell, Esq. The house is a handsome building, and though modern, the architecture is a species of Gothic; it was built by J. Pettit Andrews Esq. of whom it was purchased by the present possessor.

It is pleasantly situated on a sloping lawn, under a ridge of woody hills, screening it from the north; on which appear the venerable ruined towers of Donnington Castle. —In the vale, in front of the house, runs the Lamborne stream, enlarged and made into a handsome piece of water of an agreeable form, above a mile in length; in which are several islands covered with wood, affording protection to the feathered inhabi-

Dominion from looking West.





Torrington Green looking Northward.

tants of the lake, which are numerous ; and its banks are decorated by clumps of trees, and other woody scenery.

Near the lower extremity, a handsome wooden bridge of one arch extends across it ; here it contracts, and is lost in plantations. Towards the upper end the water gradually diminishes, and imperceptibly vanishes among solemn groves of stately trees.

The grounds are well furnished with wood, have been lately altered and much improved. By the present possessor, the water has been enlarged, many plantations have been made ; and other improvements are in contemplation.

The Lamborne river abounds with fish of various kinds ; and, as well as the Kennet, is noted for its trout and cray fish.—This river gives name to a village through which it runs ; and a singularity attends it, contrary to the nature of all others ; it is always highest in summer, gradually decreasing as the winter approaches.

DONNINGTON CASTLE.

At a small distance from Donnington Grove, upon a hill on the north-east, stands Donnington Castle; rearing its ruined head above the remains of the venerable oaks that formerly surrounded it.—Its situation is lofty, commanding the western road, and it was a post of great consequence, during the civil wars, in the time of Charles I. It withstood a siege of three weeks against the Rebel army, commanded by the Earl of Manchester; during which time a thousand great shot were spent upon its walls, and three of its towers were beaten down. The governor notwithstanding, refused either to give or accept quarter, on any terms whatever; and bravely defended his ruined fortress till relieved by the King's army: in recompence for which gallant behaviour, he was knighted by his Majesty at Newbury.

The day after the second battle of Newbury, Donnington Castle was again be-

sieged ; the governor was summoned to surrender it, with a threat, that unless he immediately complied, one stone should not be left upon another. To which he made no other reply, than that he was not bound to repair it, and that he was determined to keep the ground afterwards.

All possible means were then made use of, to induce the governor to give the place up ; he even had leave to march away, with arms, cannon, ammunition, and every thing else that belonged to the garrison. To these propositions he only answered, the Rebels might be assured, that he would not go out of the castle, till he had the King's orders so to do.

After this it was attempted by assault ; but being warmly received, and their commanding officer killed, they retreated with great confusion ; made no farther attempts upon it, and in a few days the King with his army came to its relief.

Donnington Castle is likewise rendered of note, for having been the residence of the

immortal Chaucer.—Alice, daughter of Sir Thomas Chaucer, son to the poet, married William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk. On his attainder, it came to the crown; afterwards by grant of Henry VII. to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk.—In the reign of King James I. it belonged to the Packers, whose heiress married Dr. Hartley, ancestor to Mr. Hartley, the present proprietor.

BENHAM HOUSE.

A rising ground leads from the village of Speen to Benham House, a seat of Ld. Craven.—From the high road we enter the park by a gate, with a handsome lodge on each side; and descend by a spacious road through a wood, to the open grounds; on entering which a variety of views are presented.

On the south, beyond the vale through which the Kennet runs, Hampstead Marshall Park, well adorned with wood, is seen. On this side the valley the grounds are much varied and unequal; are decorated

Bentham House.



by clumps of stately trees, interspersed with water, and a variety of woody scenery. On the west beyond the valley, higher grounds appear, crowned with extensive woods, joined to tracts of downs in bold projections; and toward the east, we view a large district of well cultivated woody country, with a flat composed of meadow land between.

The house is a regular mansion of the Ionic order, having an elegant portico on the south front. It is built on a sloping bank, embosomed in a deep and solemn grove, composed of trees of various kinds.

On the south lies a piece of water, supplied by the Kennet; over which is a handsome wooden bridge, in the Chinese taste. The north side of the grounds is ornamented by woods, round which the high road makes a sweep, running along to the western gate.—Through the vale on the south the Kennet glides; but being much sunk, is not discernible from hence.

On the opposite side of the vale is Hampstead Marshal, another seat belonging to, and formerly the residence of this noble family. It is a fine park of great extent ; its grounds are high, much varied, and well furnished with wood.

This place had its name from the Marshal of England, whose property and residence it was.—The house mentioned by Mr. Camden, having been burnt down ; was begun to be rebuilt by William Lord Craven, who died in 1697, and was completed in a magnificent style by his successor. This house unfortunately having been also consumed by fire, it induced the present Lord Craven to build the seat before described, on the opposite side of the river, now his residence.

END OF THE FIRST PART.

